

Tale of Two Schools

Our Lady's Catholic Academy 33,000 sq ft

500 Seats (per DOE) | 66 sq ft per pupil



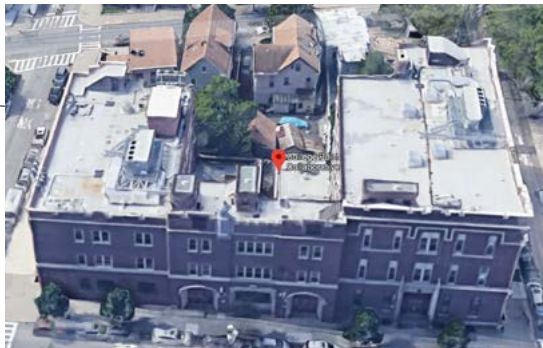
Multi-purpose room

MS 379 62,000 sq ft

555 Seats | 112 sq ft per pupil



Auditorium



Gym



Science Lab



Library



Multi-purpose room

Tale of Two Schools

By state law, the city must offer space that is “reasonable, appropriate and comparable and in the community school district to be served by the charter school and otherwise in reasonable proximity.”¹

The building Mayor de Blasio has offered Success Academy Queens families — Our Lady’s Catholic Academy — does not meet these requirements.

A 33,000 square foot building is not reasonable, appropriate and comparable for 500 students, much less the 700 total enrollment projected.

- By State Education Department Guidelines,² the building is adequate for 330 students, not the 500 the DOE estimates. School building capacity is calculated by applying 100 square feet per pupil to the overall square feet of the prospective building. With only 33,000 square feet, Our Lady’s Catholic Academy can accommodate only 330 students.
- With a capacity of 330 students, this building fits **the rising 227 Queens scholars** for only one school year (SY 20/21).

The space is not comparable to what the city provides district students. The proposed building gives Success Academy students roughly half the space, with no gym, auditorium or cafeteria.

- Packing in 500 kids into 33,000 square feet gives each child only **66 square feet** — an educational injustice.
- Two new school buildings in Queens allocate **135 square feet per child, or more than 2.5 times as much as what the DOE proposed for Success Academy Queens students.**
- The DOE is telling public charter school children that they **deserve only half of the space** that provided to district public school children.

The proposed space is not permanent. There are only enough seats to accommodate SA’s Queens students for one year.

- The site cannot be permanent even for Rosedale’s students much less for all of the SA schools in Queens with students entering middle school next year.

	Newly Built Schools	PS 298	PS 335
	Size (sq ft)	110,000	80,500 ⁴
Design Capacity ³	# of Students	796	589
	Sq Ft per Student	137	136
Actual Enrollment/ Usage	# of Students	517	173
	Sq Ft per Student	212	465



Recently built P.S. 298 (left) and P.S. 335 provide an average of 136 sq. ft. per pupil at full enrollment.

Four existing buildings in Southeast Queens allocate on average 141 square feet per child, without factoring in the buildings' empty seats.⁵

- If the DOE were to place 600 new SA scholars at any of four underutilized buildings in Southeast Queens, there would still be at least 111 square feet per student.
- Two other buildings (Q238 and Q400) could accommodate between 400 and 500 additional students.



Building Q072

Total square feet	149,000
Current enrollment	733 students 203 sq ft per pupil
	With addition of 600 SA scholars: 111 sq ft per pupil



Building Q490

Total square feet	260,000
Current enrollment	1,648 students 157 sq ft per pupil
	With addition of 600 SA scholars: 115 sq ft per pupil



Building Q410

Total square feet	409,000
Current enrollment	1,903 students 214 sq ft per pupil
	With addition of 600 SA scholars: 163 sq ft per pupil



Building Q690

Total square feet	199,000
Current enrollment	510 students 390 sq ft per pupil
	With addition of 600 SA scholars: 179 sq ft per pupil

¹ [New York State Education Law §2853\(3\)](#)

² [SED's Guidelines for School Construction](#) calculates building capacity by applying 100 square feet per pupil to the overall square feet of the prospective building. See p. 18–19.

³ Newly built Queens school capacity is from a [Queens Chronicle](#) article.

⁴ O&S Associates, architects for building Q332 / PS 335
<https://www.oandsassociates.com/projects/nycsca-ps-332q-new-elementary-school/>

⁵ Enrollment figures are from the 2018–19 [Enrollment, Capacity, and Utilization Report](#) published by the School Construction Authority. Building square footage taken from the Authority's [BCAS inspection reports](#).