



**Brendan T. Mims, Community Superintendent**

Community School District #16

Kenya Smith, Deputy Superintendent

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(929) 336-6625- Phone

*Our Students, Our Faculty, Our Families, Our Community: Together  
We Are Bed-Stuy Brilliance!*



Dear P.S. 25 Families,

I have been working closely with the P.S. 25 community to reverse declining enrollment and increase performance since my tenure as Superintendent began. As challenges persist, we must consider all options to ensure your children receive the educational experience they deserve. As such, I am writing to share that we are exploring a potential proposal to close P.S. 25 at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. If this potential proposal moves forward and is approved, P.S. 25 will no longer admit or serve students as of the 2025-2026 school year. This is a difficult decision that we know will be challenging for the community. However, we are exploring this proposal because, if approved, it will allow current P.S. 25 students to attend other District 16 elementary schools that will provide them with a more robust learning experience.

As we've started to share this information, we've received many questions. Please see below for answers to some of the most common questions we've heard so far.

- *Why are we exploring a potential closure of P.S. 25?*
  - We are considering the closure of P.S. 25 at the end of the 2024-2025 school year due to persistent challenges with demand, enrollment, and performance.
    - P.S. 25's enrollment has declined by approximately 33% over the past five years. In the 2023-2024 school year, the school serves just 55 students, only 8 of which are in kindergarten.
    - Performance has remained low at P.S. 25 despite repeated and sustained interventions. In the 2022-2023 school year, P.S. 25's math and ELA proficiency rates were significantly below the District 16 average, and it was one of the lowest performing schools in the district.
  - Because most funding in a school's budget is allocated on a per-pupil basis, low enrollment often creates budgetary and programmatic challenges. The ongoing challenge of declining enrollment has financially impacted the school's ability to provide a robust learning environment for students. For example, P.S. 25 has been unable to fully staff its cluster teachers, including art and music teachers, and has limited funding for after-school programming.
- *What supports have already been provided to P.S. 25?*
  - Performance has remained low at P.S. 25 despite repeated and sustained interventions by the District 16 Superintendent's team. These supports have included:
    - Professional learning and side-by-side coaching support for staff on class schedules, student groupings, instructional techniques, such as modelling, and administering academic screeners to assess student progress and performance;
    - Ongoing classroom visits by an instructional coach, along with follow-up meetings to debrief;
    - Facilitation of grade team meetings focused on using data protocols and literacy tools;
    - Learning walk where the principal and District 16 team piloted the use of a literacy tool;
    - Support setting up and reorganizing classrooms; and



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- Training on best practices for using MySchools and the school waitlist.
- *If the potential closure moves forward and is approved, how will it impact the P.S. 25 principal and staff?*
  - If this potential closure is approved, all teachers, administrative, and non-pedagogical staff at P.S. 25 will be excessed; however, all excessed staff members will retain their job at NYCPS, and their salaries will not be impacted.
  - We will support excessed employees in finding new positions in District 16, or at schools in other districts if they prefer. We will strive to ensure that any excessed staff can remain in District 16 should they desire.
- *If this potential proposal moves forward and is approved, how will current P.S. 25 families enroll in other elementary schools?*
  - Current P.S. 25 students will be able to enroll in other higher-demand and higher-performing schools across the district, where they will benefit from broader academic and enrichment opportunities, interventions, and other supports for students that larger schools are able to provide.
  - Current P.S. 25 students will receive individualized support from the Superintendent’s team and Family Welcome Center counselors to find a new school aligned to their needs.
- *If this potential proposal moves forward and is approved, how will the school’s current space in the K025 building be used moving forward?*
  - As we engage with the P.S. 25 and broader District 16 communities about this potential proposal, we will also collaboratively explore how to use K025 to better meet district needs.
  - As part of this process, we will work with the community to seek input and assess potential opportunities that will ensure the space in K025 is utilized to support high-demand programming that meets local needs and priorities, which could include an innovative new school or opportunities to expand access to existing high-demand schools.
- *What happens next?*
  - We will continue to engage with the P.S. 25 school community over the coming months and into next school year. We look forward to continuing our meetings with families to hear their input and to learn more about their needs.
  - Pending community feedback, we anticipate a proposal to close P.S. 25 will be formally issued in Fall 2024, via the posting of an Educational Impact Statement (EIS).
  - The Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) will likely vote on whether to approve this proposal later in the winter.
  - In advance of the PEP’s vote, there will several engagement opportunities for staff and families, including a virtual Joint Public Hearing where the community can share feedback.
  - If the closure is approved:
    - Following the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year, P.S. 25 will no longer be an elementary school option and will no longer admit students.



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- If the closure is not approved:
  - P.S. 25 will continue to operate as an elementary school in the 2025-2026 school year. However, we will continue to monitor demand, enrollment, and performance to determine if additional interventions and/or supports should be explored in the future.

We look forward to continuing conversations over the next few weeks to hear your feedback. If you have additional questions, please reach out to me at [bmims2@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:bmims2@schools.nyc.gov), or to the Director of Bronx and District 16 Planning in the Office of District Planning, Valeria Rojas, at [vrojasinfantas@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:vrojasinfantas@schools.nyc.gov).

Sincerely,

Brendan Mims  
Superintendent, Community School District 16