



52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

February 2, 2024

Dear Urban Assembly School for Media Studies Families:

I am writing to share that the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) is proposing to merge The Maxine Greene High School for Imaginative Inquiry (03M299), referred to as Maxine Greene, with High School for Law, Advocacy, and Community Justice (03M492), referred to as LACJ in building M490 in the 2024-2025 school year. A merger means that two or more existing school organizations are combined into one school to operate and serve students more effectively.

If this proposal is approved, The Urban Assembly School for Media Studies (03M307), referred to as UAM, will continue serving students in grades 9-12 in M490. This proposal is not expected to impact current or future enrollment, admissions, or programming at UAM.

As you may know, Maxine Greene and LACJ are existing district high schools serving students in grades 9-12 in M490 co-located with UAM, High School of Arts and Technology (03M494), referred to as Arts and Tech, and Manhattan / Hunter Science High School (03M541), referred to as Hunter, which are all also district schools serving grades 9-12, and grades 9-12 of Special Music School (03M859), referred to as SMS.

What is the NYCDOE proposing?

The NYCDOE is proposing a school merger. The goal of a school merger is to improve learning environments by combining the strengths and best practices of both schools and distributing resources to reinforce academic enrichment opportunities, interventions, and other supports.

If this proposal is approved, Maxine Greene will be combined with LACJ such that the students, staff, and resources of Maxine Greene will become a part of the merged LACJ as of the 2024-2025 school year. If this proposal is approved, Maxine Greene will no longer exist as a distinct school option as of the 2024-2025 school year and will no longer serve students in M490. Maxine Greene will merge with LACJ beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, and the merged LACJ will continue to be co-located with UAM, Arts and Tech, Hunter, and SMS in M490. A co-location means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces, such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

This proposal must be voted on and approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) prior to implementation.

If this proposal is approved by the PEP, what does this mean for my child(ren)?

- If this proposal is approved, in the 2024-2025 school year, the merged LACJ in M490 is projected to have a total enrollment of 500-540 students. In the current 2023-2024 school year, M490 has a total building enrollment of 1,871 students across Maxine Greene, LACJ, UAM, Arts and Tech, Hunter, and SMS, yielding a building utilization rate of approximately 56%. Because Maxine Greene and LACJ are currently both served in M490, this proposal is not expected to significantly impact building enrollment or utilization.

- If this proposal is approved, UAM will continue to be co-located with the merged LACJ, Arts and Tech, Hunter, and SMS in M490 in the 2024-2025 school year. All schools co-located in M490 will continue to share common spaces, including the auditorium, gymnasiums, library, and cafeterias.
- As indicated above, UAM will continue serving students in grades 9-12 in M490. This proposal is not expected to impact current or future enrollment, admissions, or programming at UAM.

Where can I learn more about this proposal?

This letter serves as notice that the Educational Impact Statement (EIS) for this proposal has been posted on the NYCDOE's website at: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/leadership/panel-for-education-policy/2023-2024-pages/march-20-2024-school-utilization-proposals>.

We encourage you to visit that website as we will update it with important dates and new information as it becomes available. Copies of the EIS for this proposal are also available in the main offices of Maxine Greene, LACJ, UAM, Arts and Tech, Hunter, and SMS.

How can I provide feedback?

This proposal must be voted on and approved by the PEP prior to implementation. We anticipate that the PEP will vote on this proposal on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 6 p.m. at the Bayard Rustin Educational Campus, located at 351 W. 18th Street, New York, NY 10011.

In advance of the PEP vote, a Joint Public Hearing for this proposal will be held via teleconference on Wednesday, March 6th, 2024. All community members will have the opportunity to share feedback about this proposal at the Joint Public Hearing, which will begin at 6 p.m.

Feedback on the proposal can also be directed at any time to the NYCDOE's Office of District Planning by phone at 212-374-3466 or via e-mail at D03proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

The official Notice of Proposal and Joint Public Hearing are attached.

Sincerely,



Fred Walsh
High School Superintendent for CUNY and Urban Assembly