

The Crotona Academy school community was informed of the proposed closure of our school on February 9, 2018. The PEP Panel voted to close Crotona Academy on April 25, 2018. The Crotona Academy school community is requesting an appeal or reversal to the decision to close Crotona Academy be implemented. We are requesting that a fair and impartial review of Crotona Academy's school data be conducted in comparison to that of NYSED identified low performing Priority and Focus Transfer high schools (as well as other lower performing Transfer high schools) that were not proposed for closure.

******CROTONA ACADEMY - GRADUATION RATE COMPARISON******

(Source: NYCDOE School Quality Guide) <https://tools.nycenet.edu/guide/2017/#dbn=02M560>

- Among the 53 Transfer high schools there are eleven Transfer High schools that have lower graduation rates than Crotona Academy High School.
- Out of the eleven Transfer High Schools that have lower graduation rates than Crotona Academy, five of these Transfer High Schools are identified as low performing Focus or Priority schools.
- Out of the five identified by NYSED low performing Focus or Priority Transfer High Schools with lower graduation rates than Crotona Academy, three of these Transfer High Schools are located the Bronx
- Although there was a decrease in Crotona Academy's graduation rate from 2015-16 to 2016-17, this decrease is attributed to the increased enrollment of ELL/SWD students. In 2015-2016 the ELL/SWD student percentage was 10% -20%. In 2016-2017 in the ELL/SWD student percentage increased to 70%-80%.

2015-2016 Student Demographics effecting Graduation School Year

- 2015-2016: General Education student population of 80-90%
- 2015-2016: 10-20% ELL/SWD

2016-2017 Student Demographics effecting Graduation School Year

- 2016-2017: ELL/SWD population of 70%-80%
- 2016-2017: General Education 10%-20%

CROTONA ACADEMY EXCEEDED STATE TARGETED GRADUATION RATE:

NYSED data shows that Crotona exceeded its **2016-17 targeted graduation rate of 40% to 45%**, 5% higher than the targeted projected rate.

(Proposal Claim: The NYCDOE is proposing to close Crotona Academy at the end of the 2017-2018 school year because it struggles with academic performance and attendance issues)

TRANSFER SCHOOLS THAT DID NOT MEET GRADUATION TARGETED RATE:

- Six Transfer High Schools did not meet their targeted graduation rate in 2016-17 as shown in the NYSED
- Out of the six Transfer High Schools that did not meet their targeted graduation rate, two of the Transfer High Schools are located in the Bronx and are identified as Priority Schools (**Bronx Arena High School and Bronx Regional High School**)

(Proposal Claim: Specifically, in the 2016-2017 school year, Crotona Academy had a 45% graduation rate, down from 63% in 2014-2015 and 51% in 2015-2016 which puts it in the 27th percentile compared to all other transfer schools citywide)

*******ATTENDANCE*******

(Please see included Crotona Data Summary -Transfer High School Attendance Comparison)

- In the Proposal for Closure Impact Statement Crotona Academy's low attendance is cited as a reason for closure.
- During this current 2017-18 school year due to strategic steps being made, considerable improvements in student attendance and chronic absenteeism have been made which was an area of focus for Crotona Academy the previous school year
- A comparison attendance report of the all 53 Transfer Schools supports that Crotona Academy High School's attendance **(Year to Date)** YTD ranks 26th out of the 53 transfer schools in NYC. This indicates that 27 other Transfer High Schools YTD's student attendance **are performing lower than Crotona Academy**
- Crotona Academy is averaging a 64% YTD attendance rate for this school year, which is (the highest attendance YTD in the school's 13-year history) and is steadily increasing monthly.
- A month-to-month comparison of our attendance history from the 2016-17 school year to the 2017-18 school year indicate a **52.57 % YTD (Year to Date) gain** Crotona Academy's student attendance from last **year to this year**.

*******CROTONA MOVE FROM TRAILERS SEPTEMBER 2016*******

*(Source: see *2016-2017* Proposal)*

- Crotona Academy students were schooled out of Trailers for 11 years from September 2005-September 2016
- Crotona Academy students were only moved to their current school building in September 2016 (see Crotona 2016-17 Proposal Crotona Academy Relocation from Trailers).
- Crotona Academy students were supposed to be given a chance in their improved setting, not removed in less than 2 years.

(Proposal Claim: Crotona Academy continues to struggle with attendance, absenteeism, and performance. In 2016-2017, the NYCDOE re-sited Crotona Academy out of Transportable Classroom Units (TCUs) to a new building with contiguous space to improve learning conditions and support the school, but despite these efforts the school continues to struggle.)

*******2018-2019 PLAN FOR A ONE YEAR SUSPENSION SITE TO REPLACE CROTONA ACADEMY *******

(Source: see 2017-2018 Proposal)

- The proposed plan for 2018-2019 is to replace Crotona Academy with a **one year Suspension Site School** (this Suspension School is currently located in trailers).
- This is unfair to the Crotona Academy High Schools students who were relocated less than two years ago from being schooled out of Trailer Units for eleven years.

(Proposal Claim: the NYCDOE anticipates using the space to house one or more ALCs currently being served in TCUs in the Bronx. The NYCDOE supports the use of this space as it will facilitate the removal of TCUs.)

******CLAIM THAT THERE IS AN EXCESS OF TRANSFER SCHOOLS IN THE BRONX******

(Source: see 2017-2018 Proposal)

- 2017-18 Crotona Academy Proposal Impact Statement states that there are too many Transfer High School in the Bronx.
- If it is necessary for a Bronx Transfer School to be closed, it should be one of the five Bronx NYSED identified low performing Priority or Focus Transfer High Schools, not Crotona Academy which has been identified by NYSED a school **In Good Standing** for five years.
- Crotona Academy High School has higher graduation rates than most of the Priority and Focus Transfer High Schools.
- Crotona Academy High School has better student attendance than most of the Priority and Focus Transfer High Schools.

(Proposal Claim: the Bronx has an excess of about 950 transfer high school seats in district schools. If the closure of Crotona Academy is approved, Bronx transfer high schools will have the capacity to serve approximately 3,000 students in grades 9-12 and will have an excess of about 850 transfer high school seats.)

******CROTONA DEMOGRAPHICS ******

- The Crotona Academy students struggle with poverty, homelessness, unemployment, substance abuse and mental health issues.
- If Crotona Academy is closed the plan is for NYCDOE to move the remaining Crotona students to move to other Transfer High Schools however the majority of other Transfer Schools are co-located in school buildings with other schools. This is an issue for students trying to avoid gang violence or bullying from other schools.
- Many of our Crotona Academy students Special Education and English Language Learners. In spite of this our Crotona Academy students are graduating, going to college, working in internships, receiving Social Emotional and Mental Health support and improving their lives.

Crotona Academy Student Demographic

- **Hispanic 59.39%**
- **Black 35.76%**
- **White 3.64%**
- **Native Americans 1.21%**

- **Special Education 35.76%**
- **English Language Learners 12.12%**
- **Economically Disadvantaged at or below poverty level 87.88%,**
- **Over-aged under-credited 100%**

*****REQUESTING ASSESSMENT OF SCHOOL DATA FOR ALL TRANSFER HIGH SCHOOLS*****

- The information in the Proposal for Closure of Crotona Academy is **vague, inaccurate** (stating Crotona is a Portfolio Assessment School) and **does not cite specific information to allow for a fair comparisons** of the other Transfer Schools' performance in comparison to Crotona Academy.
- Crotona Academy is a **NOT** an identified NYSED low performing Renewal School, Focus School or Priority School.
- Crotona Academy it is **the only Transfer High School proposed for complete closure** (in spite of Crotona Academy being a NYSED identified school *In Good Standing* for five years including the current 2017-18 school year). **There are no other Transfer High Schools in the Bronx** that have been proposed for any form of closure, merger, re-siting or co-location.
- **There are nine Transfer High Schools** identified by NYSED as low-performing schools which are called Priority or Focus schools. **Five of the NYSED low-performing Priority or Focus Transfer High Schools are located in the Bronx.**

(Proposal Claim: If this proposal is approved, Crotona Academy will no longer exist as a transfer school option beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.)

The Crotona Academy school community is requesting an appeal or reversal to the decision to close of Crotona Academy. A fair and impartial evaluation of both Crotona Academy's school data as well as that of other Transfer High Schools (inclusive of NYSED identified low performing Focus and Priority Transfer high schools) is required before determination is made to close Crotona Academy High School.