



**Department of
Education**

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

Kathleen Grimm
Deputy Chancellor

December 17, 2013

The Honorable Daniel Squadron
State Senator, 26th Senate District
250 Broadway, Suite 2011
New York, NY 10007

The Honorable Sheldon Silver
Speaker, Assembly District 65
250 Broadway, Suite 2307
New York, NY 10007

The Honorable Scott Stringer
Borough President, Manhattan
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007

The Honorable Margaret Chin
Council Member, District 1
250 Broadway, Suite 1804
New York, NY 10007

The Honorable Rosie Mendez
Council Member, District 2
250 Broadway, Suite 1734
New York, NY 10007

Dear State Senator Squadron, Speaker Silver, Borough President Stringer, Council Member Chin, and Council Member Mendez:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting the proposed Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2015 through 2019 be amended to include the construction of a new public school at the Seward Park Urban Renewal Area (SPURA) site.

The Department of Education and the School Construction Authority were supportive of the plan to reserve a parcel of land in this development area for construction of a school, and we recognize that the existing capacity of schools in the area may not be able to accommodate the demand generated by the new housing planned at SPURA.

Our decision not to include the new school in the proposed 2015-2019 Capital Plan is a decision around timing and priorities. Based on our current understanding of the construction plans for the new housing in the SPURA development, we believe the need for new seats will not occur until the 2020-2024 Capital Plan period. In the meantime, the new capacity projects proposed in the 2015-2019 Capital Plan are focused on areas where we currently see overcrowding, or where housing construction is expected to generate increased demand sooner than the SPURA development.

We will continue to monitor the enrollment at the schools surrounding the SPURA development as well as the timing of the new housing construction to see if conditions have changed as part of our annual Capital Plan amendment process.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Grimm

cc: Lorraine Grillo, President and CEO, School Construction Authority
Jameliah Nathan, Executive Director, Office of Public Affairs