

## Foreword

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Metropolitan Avenue School Campus was accepted as complete by the New York City School Construction Authority (SCA) as lead agency and published for review on May 17, 2005. Its publication marked the beginning of the public review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The SCA accepted public comments on the DEIS until June 16, 2005.

Following publication of the DEIS and consideration of the comments received on the DEIS, the SCA has modified the proposed school campus project with respect to three areas: composition and capacity; access; and, parking.

The previous proposal called for the development of facilities for four school organizations, consisting of two primary/intermediate schools and two high schools. The modified proposal eliminates the primary school grade levels with a resulting reduction in the student capacity of the campus.

Three points of access to the campus were included in the previous proposal. Vehicular and pedestrian access was to have been provided by driveways from Metropolitan Avenue and 70<sup>th</sup> Road, and pedestrian access was also to have been available from Sybilla Street. Under the modified proposal, vehicular and pedestrian access shall be provided from Metropolitan Avenue only; the planned driveway from 70<sup>th</sup> Road will be available for emergency access only, and pedestrian access from Sybilla Street will be eliminated.

The previous proposal did not include any on-site accessory parking. The modified proposal now provides a total of approximately 157 accessory parking spaces on the campus, generally along its interior driveways.

This document is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Metropolitan Avenue School Campus. It reflects all substantive comments received on the DEIS and analyzes the project modifications discussed above. The FEIS identifies the comments received on the DEIS and provides responses in a new chapter, "Response to Comments."

The FEIS also includes updated analyses for each of the environmental assessment areas to reflect changes in background conditions since publication of the DEIS. These background changes include the planned development of a large commercial/retail development on the site west of the LIRR Rockaway Beach right-of-way and also the residential development that replaced the Forest Hills Swim Club to the east of the planned campus.