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Mayor Eric Adams  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Adams,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed co-locations of Success Academy at MS 72 in Rochdale and at the Springfield Gardens Educational Campus (SGEC) in Springfield Gardens. To me, it is clear that such co-locations would present significant and entirely avoidable challenges for both campuses — each are already existing co-locations of multiple schools into one facility — while impacting the education of Southeast Queens students, whom have already been forced to endure countless co-locations and decades of systemic disinvestment.

An obvious logistical hurdle would be the mixing of grade levels, as the two proposed Success Academy schools would introduce elementary students as young as 5 years old into MS 72, which serves three separate middle schools, and SGEC, which houses four high schools. Not only have school administrators and parent leaders expressed worries over education quality, safety and the usage of facilities like bathrooms by the mixing of ages, but the co-locations will also present serious overcrowding issues at both schools. Issues around mixing ages are more likely at SGEC, where Living for the Young Family Through Education (LYFE) operates a childcare facility for children of student parents.

Currently, lunch periods at the facilities begin as early as 10am in order to accommodate every student. Success Academy's co-location would only increase stress relating to meal service, potentially forcing students to eat lunch at nonsensical times and leaving our kids — especially those who attend afterschool programming — without an opportunity to eat for significant portions of the day. In terms of recreation, there are no age-appropriate playgrounds for young children at either location, while both campuses also lack enough gym space to introduce yet another school full of students.

The most obvious and problematic aspect of this potential co-location, however, is the intense space crunch that it would cause, now and in the future. Both schools have seen growing enrollment rates and have worked incredibly hard to become the renowned institutions that they are, with MS 72 being named a Federal Magnet School in 2022. Such a designation, however, requires schools to present plans to grow their enrollment. Should a co-location occur, it would be nearly impossible for MS 72 to grow in an acceptable manner, potentially endanger the school's magnet status. Additionally, a District 75 school is located on the MS 72 campus, and our students with disabilities enrolled at the District 75 facility both require and deserve smaller class sizes, which a co-location would render impossible.

For these reasons and others, I strongly disagree with the two proposed co-locations for Southeast Queens and implore the Panel for Education Policy to vote in opposition.

Sincerely,

Donovan Richards  
President  
Queens Borough