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Mayor Fulop Joins State and Board of Education Officials at Groundbreaking for New Elementary School; Site Dormant for More than a Decade Will be Home to School for Jersey City’s Growing Student Population and Will Be One of Largest Public Pre-K Facilities in the City

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop joined State and Board of Education officials at a **groundbreaking ceremony** today for a **new, state-of-the art elementary school** in the Heights. A vacant lot for more than a decade, the site will now be home to a school for Jersey City’s growing student population and will be one of the **largest public school pre-k facilities** in the city.

Jersey City’s continued development boom will **increase the size of the school population by 25 percent by 2017** with nearly 7,000 new students, according to a report commissioned by the school district in March. The student population growth will be entirely in grades pre-k through five, the report found.

“Jersey City is one of the fastest growing urban school districts in the state,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “More and more families are choosing Jersey City as their home and access to quality education and expanded pre-k facilities is critical to our continued growth and progress and for the success of our students.”

Since his time on the Council, Mayor Fulop has been advocating for increased public school facilities, including increased pre-k classrooms throughout the city. The administration has been working with the development community to identify locations for potential pre-k classrooms in new construction.

“For more than a decade, this site was a dormant, empty lot contributing nothing to the community,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “We are pleased that it will now be a place for the education and advancement of our children and we will continue to work with the State and the Board of Education to identify additional locations for more pre-k classrooms and school facilities.”

The \$54 million school that will educate 770 students in grades pre-kindergarten through five and feature 10 much needed pre-k classrooms is anticipated to open for the September 2016 school year.

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The school will also include 30 general education classrooms, four self-contained special education classrooms, a cafeteria, a gymnasium, an assembly/multi-purpose room and a media center.

The groundbreaking was attended by Charles McKenna, the Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Schools Development Authority, Jersey City School Superintendent Marcia V. Lyles, and other state and local elected officials.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699. ///