

New HS megaplex

129M Mott Haven plan

THE SOUTH Bronx will be getting a new \$129 million education complex that will serve as a campus for four small high schools, Mayor Bloomberg announced yesterday.

Set to be located in Mott Haven on a 6-acre city-owned site along the Metro North tracks between 153rd and 156th Sts., the schools would serve 2,000 students.

"These schools will give thousands of students and parents in this community the chance to have the kind of rigorous and satisfying education that every neighborhood deserves," the mayor said.

One of the schools would run from grades 6 through 12; the others would be traditional high schools. One of the schools will be a charter school, said Schools Chancellor Joel Klein.

Each school would be housed in its own building, with its own classrooms, labs and cafeteria. All of the schools would share a common auditorium, library, gymnasium and outdoor recreation space.

The project — part of a wider plan to alleviate overcrowding in the Bronx — already has been included in the Depart-

ment of Education's five-year capital plan. Bloomberg said it would get built even if a windfall of cash from Albany doesn't materialize as part of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit.

"We have the money in the budget," Bloomberg said.

At least one of the new schools would be slated to open in 2008, the others in 2009. Klein said some of the schools may

open a year beforehand in other locations and then move to the new space when it is ready.

The project grew out of a partnership between the Department of Education and South Bronx Churches, a group of clergy and church communities affiliated with the Metro Industrial Areas Foundation.

Bloomberg, making the announcement on the Bronx turf of possible reelection opponent Fernando Ferrer, noted that more than a third of the new schools in the city's new capital plan for schools would be built in the Bronx. jwilliams@nydailynews.com

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