

**Einstein Cluster
CIP Testimony
Presented to the County Council
May 1, 2007**

Good evening. My name is Kay Romero and along with Alies Muskin we are the Einstein Cluster Coordinators.

In the Einstein cluster, the opening of Arcola Elementary in 2007 will alleviate overcrowding at Highland, Kemp Mill and Glen Haven elementary schools. This action has been several years in the making.

Einstein High School remains over capacity. In other, especially older communities, there is no formula for calculating the number of homes that will turnover and guessing who will purchase them. The projection last year was Einstein's enrollment would drop from 1750 to 1664, approximately a 5 percent reduction. In fact, Einstein's enrollment as reported by MCPS as of Sept 30, was 1732 - a decrease of 18 students. While Einstein's ninth grade enrollment was capped at 375, there are 444 ninth grade students of which 39 students are repeating ninth grade. The remaining students have come through appeals, transfers and an increase in new enrollment in the Einstein base area.

The addition at Einstein High School is finally happening six years after the initial feasibility study, and three years after the first Downcounty Consortium class entered. The addition specifically addresses the need for space to house the performing arts academy. If anyone ever questioned the relationship between how the facilities plan directly affects the programs offered at school, the Visual and Performing Arts academy program is a good example. This Academy is the largest program at Einstein, with nearly half the students enrolled. Adding the needed space for music, dance and theater will make a tremendous difference in the ability to offer courses and the quality of the courses offered. Of course by the time it is completed, the first entering class of the academies will be ready to graduate. Placing programs and therefore approving funds in the Operating budget without the same approval and timeline in the Capital

budget ultimately hurts students. We hope you will consider this in the future for other projects around the County.

Parking at Einstein continues to be an issue. Einstein is the only high school with no parking spaces for students. Many of the streets around the school require permits to park. Driving is often the only alternative for those students who are involved in before/after-school activities, internships or work. Availability of parking is an issue for everyone. We invite you to visit the school one day. We have requested that MCPS develop a plan to accommodate parking for students and visitors.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify and let the County Council know what is going on in our cluster. All the students and teachers in Montgomery County deserve facilities they can be proud of.