

**Joint Statement from MCCPTA, MCAASP, MCEA, and SEIU  
Local 500 Regarding the Montgomery County Board of  
Education's FY 2008 Operating Budget Request**

- This is a community that supports education; has traditionally supported education; has supported disadvantaged students and public education that is effective for all children.
- The current budget increases will allow the school system to attract and retain the best employees to give all children what they need and the resources to fund initiatives such as middle school reform, secondary school counselors, hours based staffing, and assistant principals.
- All of our public officials have committed to maintaining and improving educational programs. The County Executive's proposed budget cut is inconsistent with every pledge that they have made. If they cut the schools now when they have the money, what will they do when the fiscal situation changes?
- The Montgomery County Board of Education's requested FY 2008 operating budget is a fiscally responsible budget that will work well with other county priorities. The county has the money to fully fund this budget as well as the other agencies' budgets without cuts.
- The school system's percentage share of the total county budget has been decreasing over the past three years.
- The increases in the school budget over the past few years have gone to support equitable programs for children such as targeted class size reductions, special education, reducing maximum class sizes, and additional magnet programs.