

**Richard Montgomery Cluster Testimony**  
**Regarding the Superintendent's Recommended**  
**FY 2011 Capital Budget**  
**and**  
**Amendments to the**  
**FY 2011-16 Capital Improvements Program**

**Richard Montgomery Cluster**

**Richard Montgomery High School**  
**Julius West Middle School**  
**Beall Elementary School**  
**College Gardens Elementary School**  
**Ritchie Park Elementary School**  
**Twinbrook Elementary School**

**Board of Education Public Hearing**  
**Carver Education Services Center**  
**November 12, 2009**

Richard Montgomery Cluster Coordinator:  
Lara Kristine Turner

**Richard Montgomery Cluster CIP Testimony**  
**MCPS Board of Education**  
**November 12, 2009**

Good evening, President Brandman, Superintendent Weast, and members of the Board of Education. My name is Lara Turner and I am the MCCPTA Cluster Coordinator for the Richard Montgomery High School Cluster. On behalf of the Richard Montgomery Cluster, thank you for allowing me to speak to you this evening about the Fiscal Year 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program and the Superintendent's recommended Fiscal Year 2011 Capital Budget.

**HVAC**

**\* HVAC assessments needed**

**\* Ritchie Park Elementary**

**\* Twinbrook Elementary**

The MCCPTA and the Richard Montgomery Cluster are happy to see that an increase in HVAC funding has been proposed in the budget. MCCPA has long been an advocate for an increase in funds dedicated towards this vitally important area. This increase is an indication to us that MCPS shares our belief that this will improve health and quality of life of our children and signals MCPS's understanding that energy efficiency only comes about with an investment in infrastructure.

We have two schools, **Ritchie Park Elementary** and **Twinbrook Elementary**, that are in need of HVAC assessments because they are performing poorly. Because of overcrowding and space constraints, **Ritchie Park** has poor ventilation in some classrooms that were not intended to hold classes in the original design. **Ritchie Park's** HVAC system is planned for assessment as part of an addition review process that is scheduled to occur over the next couple of years, but the

Richard Montgomery Cluster requests quicker attention to this problem because of the health implication for our children. **Twinbrook Elementary** has a history of poor HVAC maintenance and is similarly suffers from overcrowding and inappropriate room usage; reading specialists and other staff at **Twinbrook Elementary** currently work in what were originally designed to be storage rooms. These staffers work with our children in windowless rooms with single door access. Proper ventilation and consistent temperature control is a prerogative in these conditions.

#### **“MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE” AND CLUSTER OVERCROWDING**

- \* Richard Montgomery Cluster will experience sustained overcrowding in future**
- \* Quick action needed to take maximum advantage of 30% savings**
  - \* Ritchie Park needs accelerated design process for new addition**
  - \* Beall & Twinbrook Elementary will be at 130% capacity within 4 years**
- \* Universal designs for building additions will reduce design time**

MCCPTA applauds the current MCPS desire to commence construction in order to relieve severe overcrowding, especially in those clusters in moratorium. Richard Montgomery Cluster elementary schools within the City of Rockville were placed in a residential moratorium for Fiscal Year 2011. However, the Richard Montgomery Cluster has been overlooked when it comes to proactive planning - and this oversight will certainly mean that the Richard Montgomery Cluster will be in moratorium, both city and county, far longer than it need be.

The Richard Montgomery Cluster contains a large portion of Rockville and three Metro stops - Twinbrook, Rockville, Shady Grove. Montgomery County Council just this Tuesday unanimously agreed to give developers discounts to build dense developments near transit stations. This decision could boost efforts to redevelop around the White Flint area along Rockville Pike as well as impact all three Metro stops in the Richard Montgomery Cluster. This

desire by the County Council to encourage development runs counter to the current policy of waiting for schools to overcrowd until moratoriums are imposed.

When Governor Martin O'Malley spoke last month with the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland, he offered an interesting idea for cutting costs: he proposed creating a school building design that could be used across the state. We propose something further:

**MCPS could reduce the time it spends designing additions if it took a cue from homebuilders by creating a handful of designs that could be universally used with our existing buildings with minimal modifications as needed.** We believe that using this method would **dramatically decrease both the recurring expense of drafting plans as well as the significant amount of time needed for plan development before building can commence.**

**Ritchie Park Elementary** just completed its feasibility study and is moving toward the design process. Two other of our elementaries - **Beall** and **Twinbrook** - are projected to be at **130% capacity or more sometime in the next four years.** This increase will be a sustained overcrowding that will not abate, according to projections in the CIP. **The Richard Montgomery Cluster has 15 portable buildings. Ritchie Park has 3, Beall has 8, and Twinbrook has 4.**

President Brandman spoke at the October CIP work session of taking “maximum advantage” of the construction market because construction costs are down 30% in the county. We agree and believe the Board must take “maximum advantage” of the opportunity to relieve overcrowding by staying as far ahead as possible of the wave of kindergarten classes that threaten to overwhelm our already overcrowded **Beall and Twinbrook Elementary schools** - we believe

that the facility planning should occur as soon as possible and should be completed in record time. Additionally, the Board should accelerate the bids on **Ritchie Park Elementary**'s planned addition in order to take maximum advantage of the 30% cost savings to MCPS.

**Julius West Middle School** is currently near capacity, and is certain to begin exceeding capacity in Fiscal Year 2014 where it will rapidly grow from 100% to 117% capacity in the course of two years. And from there, it will not stop. The flood of elementary students from **Julius West**'s feeder schools is a torrent that will not abate. The only way to deal with this situation in a responsible way is to begin dealing with it now. With **proactive planning now**, MCPS can have facilities available when they are needed, not years after the flood has started.

## **ROOF REPLACEMENT & SAFETY ISSUES**

### **\* Beall roof replacement funds?**

We are happy that **Beall Elementary** is finally slated to get a new roof this summer for their gym. **Beall**'s roof has been patched multiple times over the years and at the moment is afflicted with yet another leak. We are not sure if funds have been allocated yet in the current budget and would appreciate it if MCPS could verify the impending expenditure.

## **MODERNIZATIONS**

### **\* Official statement needed on Promethean/Smart Board use in elementaries**

### **\* Modernization task force needed to help with FACT criteria**

MCPS promotes Promethean/Smart Boards for middle schools, but a number of elementary schools have them, as well. However, there is a great disparity among the elementary schools in MCPS (and within our own cluster!) - some schools have one in every classroom (**College Gardens** had Prometheans installed when their facility was built a few years ago), others have a

few portable Boards (**Beall** has about a half dozen), others do not have a single Board (neither **Twinbrook** nor **Ritchie Park** have any). If MCPS is advocating these Boards as a teaching tool, they should have a clear, concise statement of purpose as to their intention and the implementation of that purpose with regard to elementary schools.

MCCPTA has called repeatedly for a task force to discuss modernizations – clusters like Richard Montgomery highlight the need for proactive stewardship of our schools and forward thinking concerning modernizations and additions. MCPS is rushing the FACT assessments without consideration of whether the criteria are appropriate. We recommend that the task force review the FACT criteria before it is to be used in the next CIP in order to assess the remaining schools for modernization. It is our belief that a few more voices in the discussion that are focused on this very issue would be beneficial and cost effective in the long run. For two nights your Board has seen a flood of concerned and well-meaning parents, educators, and community members who are ready, willing, and able to help keep MCPS ahead of the curve. Our services are free and our commitment is unwavering. You should take advantage of us.

Thank you for your time and attention.

# The Washington Post

## Montgomery draws a car-free blueprint for growth

Advertisement

Council backs plan that pushes development near transit stations

By Miranda S. Spivack  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Wednesday, November 11, 2009

Montgomery County redefined the way it will grow in the next two decades when lawmakers endorsed a plan Tuesday that encourages development where residents can easily live a car-free lifestyle.

The County Council, after weeks of intense debate over the county's growth policy, **unanimously agreed to give developers discounts to build dense developments near transit stations** as long as they also construct bike paths and walkways, put shops and other amenities nearby, and use environmentally friendly construction methods.

Most suburban growth plans -- including Montgomery's, until Tuesday -- discourage development in congested areas, including those near public transit, and encourage construction in more sparsely populated communities, on the theory that new developments should arise where traffic is still tolerable.

But Montgomery's new plan takes a different tack, one that smart-growth advocates say is long overdue. With the population nearing 1 million, the Washington suburb is substantially larger than the big city to its south but is still managing growth as if everyone can hop in a car and quickly get where they want to go.

The county's growth policy is revisited every two years. The new plan could boost efforts to redevelop the jumbled White Flint area along Rockville Pike and provide new impetus to build a "[science city](#)" spearheaded by Johns Hopkins University west of Interstate 270 near Gaithersburg.

Montgomery is shifting direction at a time when jurisdictions across the Washington area are beginning to embrace transit-oriented development. Fairfax County is planning to remake [Tysons Corner](#), and Prince George's County is proposing to redevelop the area around [New Carrollton Station](#).

Montgomery's new growth policy will also give the county an opportunity to improve its bus system and encourage more people to take the bus or subway. **It retains a cap on growth when schools get too crowded, a measure that has led to a building moratorium in Bethesda, Clarksburg and part of Germantown. The council hopes to lift that moratorium soon by approving extra funds to build more classrooms.**

The council also endorsed a plan from County Council member Roger Berliner (D-Potomac-Bethesda), whose district is likely to be the epicenter of much of the urban-style growth, to use development fees to improve a transit system that commuters say is increasingly inadequate.

The county Planning Board, whose proposal the council was debating, had been willing to forgo many of the fees. But the council decided it should still collect them, even for developments near Metro stations, and steer the money toward improving public transit.

County Executive Isiah Leggett (D), who supported much of what was approved Tuesday, has proposed studying the feasibility of a countywide bus rapid-transit system being pushed by council member Marc

Elrich (D-At Large).

On one key issue, determining how much traffic is too much, Leggett and the council decided to ignore the Planning Board's formula and try to develop a new one in the next several months. Leggett and some council members said the board was willing to tolerate more road congestion than the politicians. Leggett has hired a consultant to come up with a new formula for establishing tolerable levels of congestion while allowing for development.

Planning Board Chairman Royce Hanson said that more road congestion is inevitable but that alternatives such as bus rapid transit could help take cars off the road.

"I think that is where ultimately things have to go," Hanson said, referring to building more transit. "What is painful is to tell people that, yes, in a county of a million people, traffic is likely to be slower."

Montgomery has little buildable land, and what is available for redevelopment are lucrative strip malls and large parking lots that would have to be razed.

Planners predict that 200,000 people are likely to move to the county in the next 20 years, bumping the population to more than 1 million. To find a way to house the expected newcomers and get them to and from work, the Planning Board had recommended that developers get discounts and rewards if they are willing to idle their properties for a few years and to build denser development and taller buildings, up to 300 feet in some areas, near the county's Metro stations.

The Planning Board has also tried to make improving transit an ironclad condition of much new development.

When the board approved the proposed science city in July, members were adamant that it could not be built unless the proposed [Corridor Cities Transitway](#) bus or rail system is funded and built. Funding transit, however, is up to federal, state and local lawmakers, all of whom are struggling with massive budget shortfalls, so the Planning Board can advocate for but not create it.

Although the council did not endorse all of the Planning Board's ideas, Hanson pronounced himself satisfied.

"I think we got the conversation going in the right direction," he said.

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# The Washington Post

## O'Malley urges Md. superintendents to cut costs

Advertisement

By Nelson Hernandez and John Wagner  
Wednesday, October 21, 2009

With Maryland facing a \$2 billion budget shortfall next year, Gov. Martin O'Malley warned the chiefs of the state's school systems Tuesday of hard times ahead, and the Senate president told them that they were "going to have to start taking a portion of the hit."

Speaking in Annapolis to a gathering of the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland, O'Malley (D) urged the heads of the county's 24 school jurisdictions to find ways to save money but maintain the quality that earned the state a No. 1 ranking in a national survey by the Education Week trade newspaper.

O'Malley's cost-saving suggestions included creating a school building design that could be used across the state, buying furniture from the state prison industry and installing solar panels on roofs to generate energy.

But he offered few specifics about what cuts the superintendents might expect in state funding even as he repeatedly stressed the challenge of chopping \$2 billion from a \$13 billion budget.

"There's nothing that focuses the mind like our own execution, is there?" O'Malley said.

Speaking after O'Malley, Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. (D-Calvert) said the state's funding for education is "not sustainable" and spoke of his well-known desire to shift the burden of teacher pension costs from the state to the counties. Talking to reporters afterward, he said a complete shift of the responsibility is not likely.






With the help of federal stimulus money, the state's schools have fared far better during tight budget times than other state-funded entities. As O'Malley put it: "Public education, K to 12, is the only member of the herd that hasn't taken a trip to the slaughterhouse."

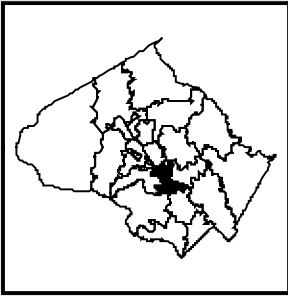
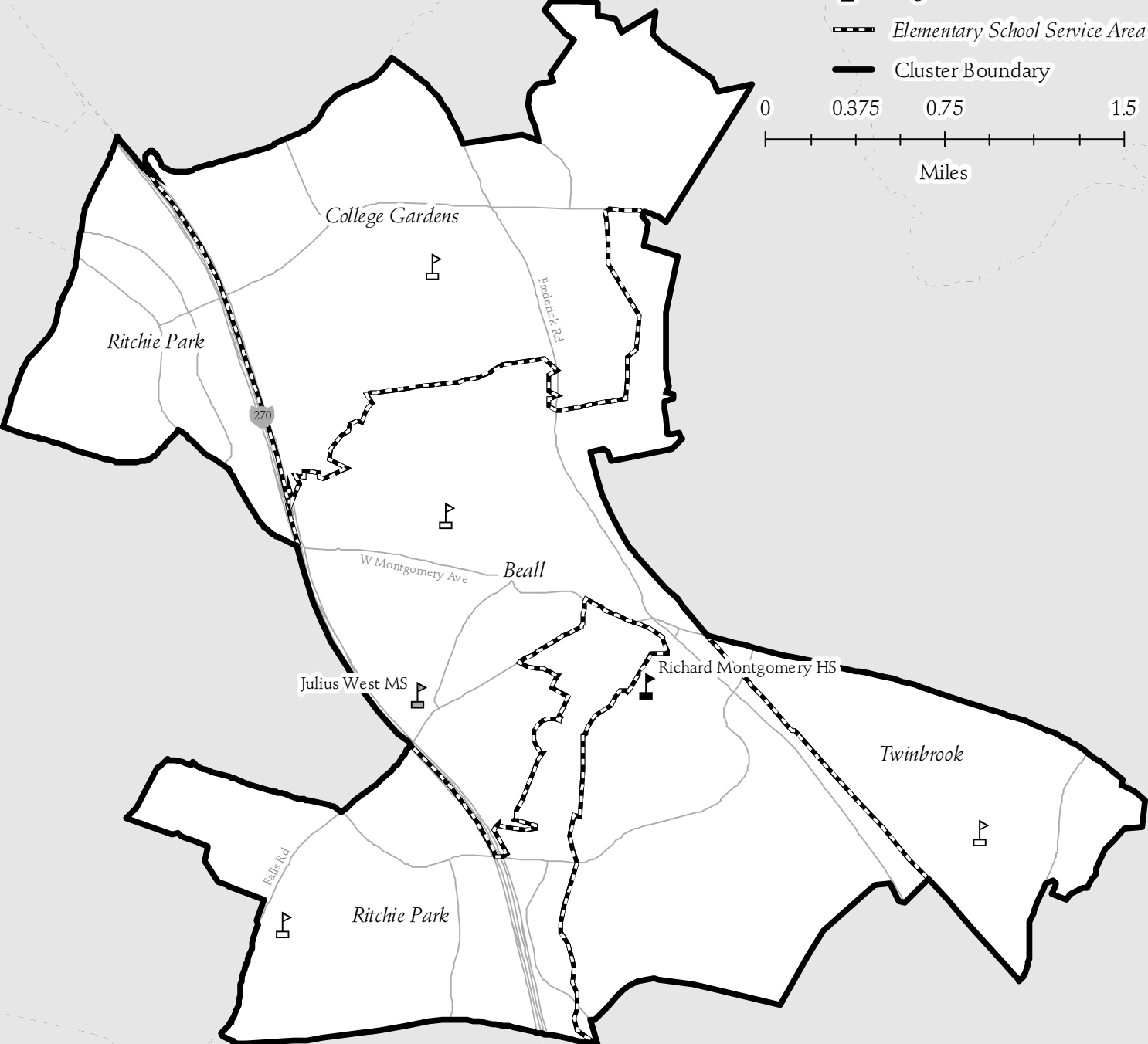
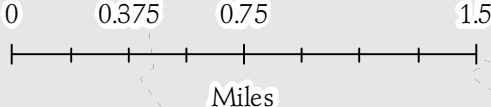
O'Malley's proposal for fiscal 2011 is due to the legislature in January, and he is crafting another round of mid-year budget cuts in the meantime. O'Malley said he is hopeful that Congress will extend federal stimulus funding -- particularly a more generous match for state Medicaid programs -- which could provide relief to states in coming years.

"I'm hoping that the recession has run out by the time the stimulus runs out," O'Malley said.

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# Richard Montgomery Cluster

-  Elementary School
-  Middle School
-  High School
-  Elementary School Service Area
-  Cluster Boundary



## CLUSTER PLANNING ISSUE

Student enrollment at elementary schools in the Richard Montgomery cluster has increased dramatically over the past two school years and will cause the cluster to be placed in a housing moratorium in FY 2011 according to the Montgomery County Growth Policy, (See appendices I and P-1 for additional information concerning the Growth Policy). Most of the Richard Montgomery cluster is within the City of Rockville. The city's adequate public facilities school test also will result in all of the Richard Montgomery cluster elementary school areas within the City of Rockville being placed in a residential moratorium in FY 2011. Classroom addition projects will be needed to address the overutilization of schools in the cluster and to take the cluster out of moratorium. FY 2010 facility planning funds were approved for a feasibility study to determine the scope and cost of a classroom addition at Ritchie Park Elementary School. This feasibility study is underway and a date for the addition will be considered as part of the Amendments to the FY 2011-2016 CIP in the fall of 2010. FY 2011 facility planning funds are recommended to conduct feasibility studies for classroom additions at Beall and Twinbrook elementary schools. If funding is approved in May 2010, the feasibility studies for Beall and Twinbrook elementary schools will occur during the 2010-2011 school year. Subsequently, planning and construction funds can be requested for these additions in the Amended FY 2011-2016 CIP.

## SCHOOLS

### Julius West Middle School

**Utilization:** Projections indicate enrollment at Julius West Middle School will exceed capacity by six classrooms or more by the end of the six-year planning period. Enrollment will be monitored to determine the timing for a future project. Relocatable classrooms will be utilized until additional capacity can be added.

**Capital Project:** Restroom renovations are recommended for this school for completion in the 2011-2012 school year.

### Beall Elementary School

**Capital Project:** Projections indicate enrollment at Beall Elementary School will exceed capacity by four classrooms or more by the end of the six-year planning period. An FY 2011 appropriation is recommended for facility planning funds to determine the feasibility, scope, and cost for a classroom addition. A date for the addition will be considered in the Amended FY 2011-2016 CIP. Relocatable classrooms will be utilized until additional capacity can be added.

**Capital Project:** Restroom renovations are recommended for this school for completion in the 2013-2014 school year.

### Ritchie Park Elementary School

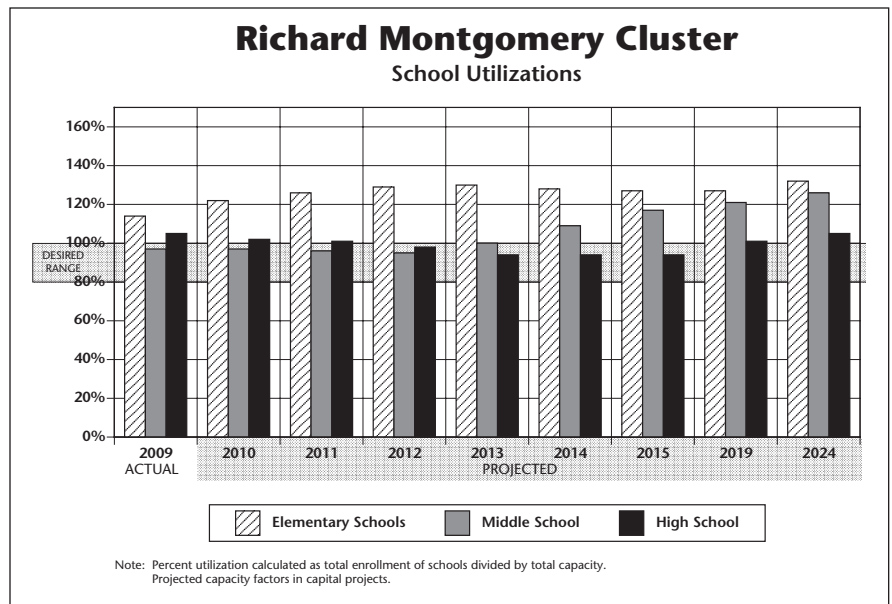
**Capital Project:** Projections indicate enrollment at Ritchie Park Elementary School will exceed capacity by four classrooms or more by the end of the six-year planning period. An FY 2010 appropriation was approved for facility planning funds to determine the feasibility, scope, and cost for a classroom addition. A date for the addition will be considered in the Amended FY 2011-2016 CIP. Relocatable classrooms will be utilized until additional capacity can be added.

**Capital Project:** Restroom renovations are recommended for this school for completion in the 2015-2016 school year.

### Twinbrook Elementary School

**Capital Project:** Projections indicate enrollment at Twinbrook Elementary School will exceed capacity by four classrooms or more by the end of the six-year planning period. An FY 2011 appropriation is recommended for facility planning funds to determine the feasibility, scope, and cost for a classroom addition. A date for the addition will be considered in the Amended FY 2011-2016 CIP. Relocatable classrooms will be utilized until additional capacity can be added.

**Capital Project:** Restroom renovations are recommended for this school for completion in the 2014-2015 school year.



## CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Julius West MS	Restroom renovations	Recommended	SY 2011–2012
Beall ES	Classroom addition	Proposed	TBD
Beall ES	Restroom renovations	Recommended	SY 2013–2014
Ritchie Park ES	Classroom addition	Proposed	TBD
Ritchie Park ES	Restroom renovations	Recommended	SY 2015–2016
Twinbrook ES	Classroom addition	Proposed	TBD
Twinbrook ES	Classroom addition	Recommended	SY 2014–2015

\*Approved—Project has an FY 2010 appropriation approved for the FY 2010 Capital Budget.

Recommended—Project has an FY 2011 appropriation recommended in the FY 2011–2016 CIP.

Programmed—Project has expenditures programmed in a future year of the CIP for planning and/or construction funds.

Proposed—Project has facility planning funds approved for the FY 2010 Capital Budget or recommended in the FY 2011–2016 CIP for a feasibility study.

RICHARD MONTGOMERY CLUSTER

**Projected Enrollment and Space Availability**

Effects of the Recommended FY2011–2016 CIP and Non-CIP Actions on Space Available

Schools			Actual	Projections							
			09–10	10–11	11–12	12–13	13–14	14–15	15–16	2019	2024
Richard Montgomery HS	Program Capacity	1957	1957	1957	1957	1957	1957	1957	1957	1957	1957
	Enrollment	2053	1991	1977	1917	1836	1849	1846	1900	1950	
	Available Space	(96)	(34)	(20)	41	122	109	112	57	7	
	Comments										
Julius West MS	Program Capacity	986	986	986	986	986	986	986	986	986	986
	Enrollment	961	958	942	938	990	1076	1154	1175	1200	
	Available Space	25	28	44	48	(4)	(90)	(168)	(189)	(214)	
	Comments										
Beall ES	Program Capacity	529	518	518	518	518	518	518			
	Enrollment	641	658	656	674	680	654	647			
	Available Space	(112)	(140)	(138)	(156)	(162)	(136)	(129)			
	Comments		+1 PreK Lang Facility Planning for Addition								
College Gardens ES	Program Capacity	693	693	693	693	693	693	693			
	Enrollment	739	777	799	829	809	800	787			
	Available Space	(46)	(84)	(106)	(136)	(116)	(107)	(94)			
	Comments										
Ritchie Park ES	Program Capacity	409	409	409	409	409	409	409			
	Enrollment	522	547	573	582	590	596	576			
	Available Space	(113)	(138)	(164)	(173)	(181)	(187)	(167)			
	Comments		Facility Planning for Addition								
Twinbrook ES	Program Capacity	512	512	512	512	512	512	512			
	Enrollment	548	614	655	666	682	687	687			
	Available Space	(36)	(102)	(143)	(154)	(170)	(175)	(175)			
	Comments		Facility Planning for Addition								
Cluster Information	HS Utilization	105%	102%	101%	98%	94%	94%	94%	97%	100%	
	HS Enrollment	2053	1991	1977	1917	1836	1849	1846	1900	1950	
	MS Utilization	97%	97%	96%	95%	100%	109%	117%	119%	122%	
	MS Enrollment	961	958	942	938	990	1076	1154	1175	1200	
	ES Enrollment	2450	2596	2683	2751	2761	2737	2697	2800	2900	

RICHARD MONTGOMERY CLUSTER

Demographic Characteristics of Schools

Schools	2009–2010						2008–2009		
	Total Enrollment	African-American %	American Indian %	Asian-American %	Hispanic %	White %	FARMS%*	ESOL%**	Mobility Rate%***
Richard Montgomery HS	2053	17.0%	0.4%	25.6%	17.7%	39.4%	15.6%	7.0%	11.5%
Julius West MS	961	19.5%	0.3%	21.0%	22.9%	36.3%	28.7%	10.2%	12.3%
Beall ES	641	17.9%	0.2%	31.0%	15.0%	35.9%	25.5%	18.4%	12.4%
College Gardens ES	739	16.8%	0.1%	27.7%	9.5%	45.9%	11.8%	16.0%	13.3%
Ritchie Park ES	522	11.9%	0.0%	25.1%	11.9%	51.1%	10.6%	9.1%	15.6%
Twinbrook ES	548	15.0%	0.5%	17.9%	51.1%	15.5%	63.5%	45.0%	15.8%
<b>Elementary Cluster Total</b>	<b>2450</b>	<b>15.6%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>25.8%</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>37.6%</b>	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>
<b>Elementary County Total</b>	<b>67018</b>	<b>22.3%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>16.0%</b>	<b>24.1%</b>	<b>37.3%</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>

\*Percent of students approved for Free and Reduced–priced Meals Program (FARMS).

\*\*Percent of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). High School students are served in regional ESOL centers.

\*\*\*Mobility Rate is the number of entries plus withdrawals during the 2008–2009 school year compared to total enrollment.

Program Capacity and Room Use Table  
(School Year 2009–2010)

Schools	Grades Served	Capacity (HS @90% MS@85%)	Total Rooms	Support Rooms	Regular Secondary @25	Regular Elementary @23	CSR Grades 1–2 @17	Pre-K @20	Pre-K @40	HS @20	CSR KIND @15	KIND @22	ESOL @15	METS @15	Special Education Programs																							
															School Based	Cluster Based	Quad Cluster Based			Regional Based																		
															SEC LAD@15	HSM @13	ELEM LAD @13	ELC @10	LANG @12	LFI @10	SCB @6	AAC@7	AUT @6	BRIDGE @10	DHOH @7	ED @10	EXTENSIONS @6	LD/GT @13	SPECIAL SCHOOLS @6	PD @7	PEP @18	SLC @10	VISION (Elementary) @7	OTHER				
Richard Montgomery HS	9–12	1958	93		80										8																							
Julius West MS	6–8	986	52		39										4																							
Beall ES	HS–5	529	34	4		7	12	1		1	7							1					1															
College Gardens ES	HS–5	693	36	4		23				1	6												2															
Ritchie Park ES	K–5	409	21	3		13					5																											
Twinbrook ES	HS–5	512	32	5		7	10		1	2	5						2																					

Facility Characteristics of Schools 2009–2010

Schools	Year Facility Opened	Year Reopened Mod.*	Total Square Footage	Site Size Acres	Adjacent Park	FACT Assess. Score	Child Care**	Relocatable Class.	LTL/SBHC***
Richard Montgomery HS	1942	2007	311,500	29.05		1287			
Julius West MS	1961	1995	147,223	21.3					
Beall ES	1954	1991	79,477	8.4	Yes			6	
College Gardens ES	1967	2007	96,986	7.9	Yes	1282			
Ritchie Park ES	1966	1997	58,500	9.2				1	
Twinbrook ES	1952	1986	79,818	10.5			Yes	4	

\*Schools with a date before 1986 underwent a renovation, not a full modernization of the facility. Schools that were reopened but not fully modernized or completely rebuilt, will be included in the assessments for future modernization based on the year the school was originally opened. See Appendix K for additional information.

\*\*Private child care is provided at the school during the school day.

\*\*\*LTL=Linkages to Learning. SBHC=School-based Health Center that includes Linkages to Learning.