



Math & Science Center relocation delayed

Plans for a new, \$14 million home for the Battle Creek Area Math & Science Center are progressing, officials said Wednesday, but they're coming along slower than expected.

Instead of a fall 2012 opening announced earlier this year, the center's new downtown home now is expected to open to students in the fall of 2013. Center Director Connie Duncan said Wednesday that work continues ironing out the details of the new center's design -- right down to the style of door knobs on each door -- before the work can be sent out to bid. She said such work takes time as officials gather community input on the design and as officials work to keep the once nearly \$16 million project under its new \$14 million budget.

"We want to do it once and we want to do it right," Duncan said. "We think we're on track."

"We're still very excited about the opportunity this will provide for all students in this community," said Linda Hicks, superintendent at Battle Creek Public Schools, which owns and manages the center.

Duncan said the center's distribution

facility, where science kits are assembled for area schools, could still open downtown next year.

The 20-year-old center plans to move from its current home on Upton Avenue in Springfield to the former Cereal City USA building in downtown Battle Creek. The W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the Kellogg Co.'s 25-Year Fund each promised \$7 million to the effort.

Backers said the effort would put students closer to food science companies downtown for expanded partnerships with those companies.

Hicks said a groundbreaking ceremony still is planned for later this month or early November.