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September 29, 2010

**Christie Administration Announces Willingboro
to Receive \$40 Million Through Schools Development Authority's
(SDA) Regular Operating District Grant Program**

Furthering the Governor's commitment to providing the state's children with safe, modern and efficient schools, the Christie Administration today announced that the New Jersey Schools Development Authority has executed \$40 million in state grants to the Willingboro School District through the SDA's Regular Operating Districts (ROD) grant program. All eight of Willingboro's schools will receive significant repairs and upgrades.

Willingboro High School and Memorial Upper Elementary School will receive science lab and locker room renovations. The high school also will have its auditorium renovated.

Those two schools, along with Levitt Middle School, J.C. Stuart Elementary School, Twin Hills Elementary School, Hawthorne Elementary School, Garfield East Elementary School and W.R. James Sr. Elementary School, will have projects such as new windows and exterior doors, new boilers and unit ventilators, upgraded electrical systems and ADA upgrades to bathrooms.

Twin Hills, Hawthorne, Garfield East and W.R. James Sr. all will receive new security systems.

SDA Chief Executive Officer Marc Larkins, in cooperation with the Department of Education, announced the resumption of the grant program in May 2010. Since then, the SDA has executed 276 grants. The state-grant program funds a portion of eligible costs for projects in the RODs, addressing health and safety issues, student overcrowding and other critical needs.

The overall totals for Willingboro's grants are as follows:

State share: \$40,146,357
Local share: \$27,210,670
Estimated total project cost: \$67,357,027

The estimated total project costs for work at each school are: Willingboro High, \$18,190,647; Memorial, \$13,105,268; Levitt, \$8,080,182; J.C. Stuart, \$5,967,181; Twin Hills, \$5,587,360; Hawthorne, \$5,581,721; Garfield East, \$5,448,957; and W.R. James Sr., \$5,395,711.

The Department of Education selects school projects to receive grant funding from the SDA. The State has provided \$106 million in grants to local districts since the May 2010 announcement, leveraging projects estimated at a total of \$230 million. Funding for the program was made available through the sale of \$500 million in bonds by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA).

The Authority's portfolio includes 1,139 ongoing grant projects in the RODs. In addition, the SDA designs, constructs and fully funds projects primarily in SDA Districts. The SDA has nine such projects in construction and 50 in various developmental phases.

Since the school construction program's inception in 2001, the state has provided more than 3,200 grants to RODs, totaling more than \$2.4 billion. Including contributions from local school districts, these grants have leveraged projects estimated at \$7.6 billion overall.