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### **Christie Administration Announces Branchburg to Receive \$441,527 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 state grants to the Branchburg School District through the SDA's Regular Operating Districts (ROD) grant program.

One of Branchburg's four projects, a roof replacement at Stony Brook Elementary School, is the first to officially receive state funding out of 740 statewide projects that the Department of Education announced were eligible in July 2010. Districts across New Jersey are eligible for \$270 million from the July 2010 allocation. The SDA executes grants upon the community securing its local share.

The state will contribute \$426,775 for the roof replacement, with the local share set at \$640,162. Overall, the project is estimated to cost \$1,066,937.

The remaining approved Branchburg projects will provide gym lighting at Stony Brook Elementary School, Whiton Elementary School and Central Middle School. These grants had been approved by DOE in 2009, pending the securing of the local share. The state will contribute a total of \$14,752 for the gym lighting, with a local share of \$22,127. Overall, the projects will cost an estimated \$36,879.

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 314 grants. The state-grant program funds at least 40 percent of eligible costs for projects in the RODs, addressing health and safety issues, student overcrowding and other critical needs.

The DOE selects school projects to receive grant funding from the SDA. The State has provided \$115 million in grants to local districts since the May 2010 announcement, leveraging projects estimated at a total of nearly \$250 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 approximately 1,150 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.