



For More Information:

Edye Maier – (609) 292-6246

May 16, 2012

SDA Breaks Ground on Capital Project in Elizabeth

Academic High School is First School to Break Ground from New Capital Program

ELIZABETH, NJ – Committed to advancing and completing Capital Program projects in a timely manner as promised, SDA CEO Marc Larkins and Elizabeth School District officials broke ground today for a new Academic High School. The groundbreaking marks the first school from the 2011 Capital Portfolio to advance into construction following Governor Christie's implementation of critical reforms at the Schools Development Authority.

"This is an exciting day for the Elizabeth community and the State's school construction program," said CEO Marc Larkins. "The construction of the Academic High School is the realization of the Christie Administration's commitment to a school construction program that delivers exemplary educational facilities with a focus on sound design and construction principles to ensure an efficient use of public funds. Generations of Elizabeth students will benefit greatly from the educational opportunities this new school will provide."

Today's event marks the commencement of the first phase of work to prepare the project site for the construction of the new high school building. Work will include clearing the site, removal of sub-surface footings and foundations, removal of unsuitable soils, remediating areas of concern and importation of certified clean fill to be compacted and graded in accordance with all applicable state and federal regulations.

The 183,822 square-foot, four-story facility, designed to educate nearly 1,100 students, will be constructed on a 1.54 acre site adjacent to the existing Jefferson High School. The new facility will contain 36 regular education classrooms, 8 science labs, 8 small group instruction classrooms, 5 self-contained special education classrooms, an auditorium, cafeteria and full service kitchen, a gymnasium with lockers and showers as well as an auxiliary gymnasium and a media center.

The facility also will include specialized rooms such as a health and fitness suite, photo lab with dark room, student activity center, CAD (computer aided drafting) classroom, engineering and robotics room, international marketplace room, law and forensic science room, choral room, band room, MIDI (musical instrument digital interface) classroom, computer science classroom, 3 teacher workrooms, administrative offices and a nurse's suite. This project was selected for advancement as part of the 2011 Capital Project Portfolio announced by the Governor.

"This project is an example of what can be accomplished through cooperative collaboration and the commitment to ensuring the best possible opportunities for Elizabeth students," said Superintendent Pablo Muñoz. "The construction of the new Academic High School will strengthen our community and provide our students with state-of-the art facilities to help prepare them for post-secondary education."

A general construction contract in the amount of \$1,587,500 for Phase I was awarded on April 14, 2012 to Luzon, Inc., of Sewell, New Jersey.

The Victor Mravlag School No. 21 in Elizabeth also is currently in construction. The SDA has previously completed 11 Capital Projects including seven new schools and 20 health and safety projects in Elizabeth investing over \$328 million since the program's inception.

The SDA's current portfolio of active projects is valued at over \$2.2 billion – including the 2011 and 2012 Capital Project portfolios (more than \$1B), additional projects in construction (\$194M), emergent projects (\$50M) and Regular Operating District grants (\$792M state share).

###