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## **Christie Administration Announces More than \$2.6 Million in Emergent Repairs to Begin at East Camden Middle School**

TRENTON – Furthering Governor Christie's commitment to ensuring that New Jersey students are educated in facilities that foster quality learning, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) has approved the start of construction for a significant emergent repair project at East Camden Middle School in Camden, New Jersey. Since 2010, the Authority substantially completed 30 SDA-managed emergent projects totaling \$24.7 million. Another 14 emergent projects totaling more than \$5.7 million that were delegated to the local school districts through the grant process were also completed during this time.

“The projects addressed through the state’s emergent project program are an essential component of the Administration’s effort to efficiently address the needs that exist throughout New Jersey’s SDA Districts,” said CEO Marc Larkins. “The replacement of the HVAC system will address a significant issue at the Middle School while providing much-needed construction employment. The advancement of this and newly identified emergent projects will ensure quality learning facilities for students in Camden and throughout New Jersey.”

A \$2,679,000 contract was awarded to GDS Mechanical, Inc. of Morris Plains, New Jersey to perform a replacement of the HVAC system including equipment, ductwork, associated mechanical and electrical work, environmental control systems, testing and balancing. Built in 1968, East Camden Middle School is an 110,000 square foot facility that educates approximately 563 students in grades six through eight.

Emergent projects are those deemed necessary in SDA Districts due to potential health and safety issues. The Emergent Project Program provides assistance to SDA District school facilities in need of repair and rehabilitation. Emergent projects include the repair or replacement of roofs; windows; exterior masonry; heating and cooling systems; and plumbing, electrical, mechanical and security systems, as well as addressing water infiltration issues.

Prior to the Christie Administration, funds available for these projects were nearly exhausted and project review procedures were insufficient making it difficult to prioritize critical projects in a deliberate and cost efficient manner. To advance this emergent project, the SDA determined that a complete replacement of the HVAC system at the East Camden Middle School was necessary, designed the fix and is now advancing the construction.

The SDA manages many projects identified as emergent, while others are delegated for District management, depending upon the project’s scope and complexity. The East Camden Middle School emergent project will be managed by the SDA.

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 (\$198.3M), emergent projects (\$45.9M) and Regular Operating District grants (\$771M in state share).

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