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August 29, 2012

Christie Administration Announces More than \$1.9 Million in Emergent Repairs to Begin at Newark Wilson Avenue School

TRENTON – Continuing to deliver on Governor Christie's commitment to ensure that New Jersey students are educated in facilities that foster quality learning, New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Marc Larkins joined local and district officials to announce the start of construction for a significant emergent repair project at the Wilson Avenue School in Newark, New Jersey. More emergent projects have been completed by the Christie Administration than any prior administration.

“The rehabilitation work to this 19th century building is critical to keeping Newark students in their facility enabling them to focus on their educational studies,” said SDA CEO Marc Larkins. “This particular project required a collaborative effort between the leadership of Newark Public Schools and the SDA. The Newark Public Schools’ ability to complete much of the rehabilitative work on an expedited basis enables the SDA to now move forward and complete the remaining work at this facility. It is the advancement of projects like this that provide New Jersey students with the facilities they need while infusing New Jersey’s construction industry with much-needed employment opportunities.”

A \$1,940,000 contract was awarded to Brockwell & Carrington Contractors, Inc. of Towaco, New Jersey to address water infiltration issues resulting from building envelope deficiencies. The work will include the replacement of approximately 131 original wood frame windows with new aluminum windows, significant exterior masonry work, roof repair, and gutter and downspout repairs and/or replacement. Construction began in August and is expected to continue for six months. Since the project will continue during the school year, work will be performed in the evening hours so as not to interfere with the school’s daily routine.

The need for this project was caused by significant damage sustained to the school during Hurricane Irene in 2011. The Wilson Avenue Elementary School, built in 1881, with three additions completed in 1890, 1910 and 1921 is a 105,000 square foot facility educates 836 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grades.

The SDA has invested more than \$525 million in completed projects in Newark alone including ten Capital projects and 93 health and safety/grant projects. 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)

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.

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

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