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## **Christie Administration Advances Emergent Repair Projects in Garfield**

**TRENTON** – As part of Governor Christie’s commitment to ensuring New Jersey’s school facilities are safe learning environments for all students, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) has advanced construction of two emergent repair projects in Garfield. More emergent projects have been completed under this Administration than any other prior administration.

“This Administration is advancing emergent projects at a pace that far exceeds previous administrations,” said CEO Marc Larkins. “Keeping children comfortable in their school buildings is essential to providing a learning environment where they can excel. The advancement of these emergent projects in Garfield and others throughout the state is ensuring quality learning environments for New Jersey students.”

The emergent repair projects will replace boilers at Washington Irving School Number 4 and Woodrow Wilson School Number 5. Washington Irving School Number 4 educates over 280 students in second through fifth grades. Woodrow Wilson School Number 5 educates over 300 students in kindergarten through fifth grades.

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, and also 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. In 2011, the SDA and Department of Education (DOE) launched its second statewide effort to identify and evaluate eligible emergent conditions in the 31 SDA Districts. The conditions reported by the districts were evaluated and validated by the SDA and the Department of Education (DOE).

The SDA manages many projects identified as emergent, while others are delegated for District management, depending upon the project’s scope and complexity. These emergent projects have been delegated to Garfield School District for management. For those projects that are delegated, the SDA executes a grant agreement with the District, who is then responsible for procuring and disbursing payment to the consultants and contractors. The SDA maintains oversight throughout this process.

The SDA has invested more than \$69 million in completed projects in Garfield alone including two Capital projects and 12 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).