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Christie Administration Advances Emergent Repair Project in Burlington City

TRENTON – Demonstrating 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 an emergent repair project in Burlington City. More emergent projects have been completed by the Christie Administration than by any prior administration.

“The Christie Administration is advancing work at a steady pace to provide learning environments where children can excel,” said CEO Marc Larkins. “The advancement of this emergent project in Burlington City and others throughout the state is ensuring quality learning environments for New Jersey students.”

The emergent repair project consists of roofing repairs at the Capt. James Lawrence School. The Capt. James Lawrence School educates over 180 students in Pre-kindergarten through second grades.

The SDA has invested nearly \$104.8 million in completed projects in Burlington City, including three capital projects.

Emergent projects are those deemed necessary in SDA Districts due to potential health and safety issues. 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 address 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 a statewide effort to identify and evaluate eligible emergent conditions in the 31 SDA Districts. The conditions that were evaluated and validated had been reported by the local districts.

The SDA manages many projects identified as emergent, while others are delegated for District management, depending upon the project’s scope and complexity. The Capt. James Lawrence School emergent project has been delegated to Burlington City Public Schools for management. For those projects that are delegated, the SDA executes a grant agreement with the District, which is then responsible for procuring and disbursing payments to the consultants and contractors. The SDA maintains oversight throughout this process.

The SDA’s current portfolio of active projects is valued at over \$2 billion – including the 2011 and 2012 Capital Project portfolios (more than \$1 billion), additional projects in construction (\$86 million), emergent projects (\$43 million) and Regular Operating District grants (\$743 million state share).

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