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Christie Administration Advances Two Emergent Repair Projects for Plainfield Public Schools

TRENTON - Continuing Governor Christie's commitment to making New Jersey's school facilities healthy and safe learning environments for all students, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) advanced construction of two emergent projects to repair and/or replace windows at Plainfield High School and Frederic W. Cook School in Plainfield. More emergent projects have been completed by the Christie Administration than by any prior administration.

“The advancement of emergent projects statewide is a critical function to maintain quality educational facilities for the children of New Jersey,” said CEO Marc Larkins. “These emergent projects are funded by the State and managed by Plainfield Public Schools.” The SDA has invested \$76.6 million in completed projects in Plainfield, including four capital projects and three health and safety grant projects.

Plainfield High School educates approximately 1,360 students in ninth through twelfth grades. The Cook School educates approximately 330 students in Kindergarten through seventh grades.

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. Emergent funds are also utilized to 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, after allocating another \$100 million to the emergent program, the SDA and Department of Education launched a statewide effort to identify and evaluate eligible emergent conditions in the 31 SDA Districts. Those 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. The approach is determined by a project's scope and complexity. The emergent projects above have been delegated to the Plainfield 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 payment 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 (\$100 million), emergent projects (\$50 million) and Regular Operating District grants (\$604 million state share).

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