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## **Christie Administration Announces Start of Construction of the New Academic High School in Elizabeth**

TRENTON, NJ – Steadfast in its efforts to ensure educational excellence for all New Jersey students, the Christie Administration today announced the start of construction of the new Academic High School in Elizabeth. This project's advancement is a demonstration of the Schools Development Authority's (SDA) commitment to advance and complete Capital Program projects in a timely manner.

"We are excited to start the construction of another state of the art school for New Jersey's schoolchildren," said SDA CEO Marc Larkins. "This new high school in Elizabeth will provide the district another first-class facility to continue their excellent track record of achievement."

The 183,822 square-foot, four-story facility, designed to educate nearly 1,100 students, is being constructed on a 1.54 acre site adjacent to the existing Jefferson High School. The new facility will contain 36 regular education classrooms, eight science labs, eight small group instruction classrooms, five self-contained special education classrooms, an auditorium, cafeteria and full service kitchen, a gymnasium with lockers and showers as well as an auxiliary gymnasium and a media center.

The facility also will include specialized rooms such as a health and fitness suite, photo lab with dark room, student activity center, CAD (computer aided drafting) classroom, engineering and robotics room, international marketplace room, law and forensic science room, choral room, band room, MIDI (musical instrument digital interface) classroom, computer science classroom, three teacher workrooms, administrative offices and a nurse's suite. The school's design is highly efficient and has the potential to serve as a model for future school projects with tight urban spaces utilizing small learning communities.

The first phase of work to prepare the project site for construction of the new high school was completed in July 2012. This phase included clearing the site, removal of sub-surface footings and foundations, remediation of areas of concern and importation of certified clean fill that was compacted and graded. In December 2012, SDA awarded a nearly \$43 million contract to Patock Construction Company, Inc. for Phase 2 construction of the facility. Patock Construction Company, Inc. received a Notice to Proceed with the construction of the facility on May 31, 2013, after successfully completing the required constructability review. The school is anticipated for occupancy in September 2016.

This project was selected for advancement as part of the 2011 Capital Project Portfolio announced by Governor Christie. With the Academic High School, SDA's active projects in Elizabeth represent more than \$100 million in total project costs. The SDA has invested more than \$328 million in completed projects in Elizabeth alone including 11 Capital projects and 23 health and safety/grant projects.

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 (\$577 million state share).