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**Christie Administration Tours School Upgrades In Hackettstown**  
*School Improvements Made Possible Through New Jersey's Multi-Million Dollar ROD Grant Program*



HACKETTSTOWN, NJ – Schools Development Authority (SDA) Chief Executive Officer Marc Larkins joined Hackettstown School District and local officials on a tour of school upgrades made possible in part from \$358,759 in state funding through the SDA's Regular Operating District (ROD) grant program. The state funding leverages local taxpayer dollars to enable the district to provide much-needed improvements while creating jobs for New Jersey contractors.

“Since the start of the Christie Administration, the SDA has been completely committed to improving school facilities throughout New Jersey,” said SDA CEO Marc Larkins. “This commitment is on full display here in the Hackettstown School District, where we have provided more than \$2.3 million in grants for 19 projects at four different schools.”

The project currently in construction at Hackettstown High School allows for the renovation of two existing chemistry labs. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems as well as casework, appliances and furnishings will be replaced for code and curriculum compliance. In addition, a separate grant project that will provide upgrades to the auditorium will begin next summer. At Hackettstown High School alone, and in just three years, SDA has executed seven grants for projects that include those toured today as well as the repaving of a parking area, partial exterior window replacement, replacement of existing roofing, replacement of the lobby ceiling and a cafeteria floor replacement.

“The State’s support of school improvement projects like those at Hackettstown High School enable us to provide facilities that help promote the district’s commitment to excellence,” said Hackettstown Superintendent David C. Mango. “Facilities such as these enhance delivery of instruction, promote student growth and provide real world experiences' that students and staff should have access to on a daily basis.”

Since the Christie Administration announced the resumption of the ROD grant program in May 2010, the SDA has executed 909 grants across the state. The state-grant program funds at least 40 percent of eligible costs for projects in the RODs, addressing health and safety issues, student overcrowding and other critical needs. Since the program’s inception in 2001, the Hackettstown School District has received more than \$4.8 million in grants through the SDA’s ROD grant program.

The Department of Education approves school projects to receive grant funding from the SDA. The State has provided more than \$285.3 million in grants to local districts since the May 2010 announcement, leveraging projects estimated at a total of nearly \$670.9 million.

In May 2013, Governor Christie announced that an additional half billion dollars would be made available for needed construction projects in Regular Operating Districts and County Vocational Schools across New Jersey. The SDA’s current portfolio of active grant projects represents more than \$1.5 billion in total project costs

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