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New Jersey Schools Development Authority Announces Fort Lee School District to Receive \$567,000 in Grant Funding for School Improvement Project

Trenton, NJ – In support of the Murphy Administration’s commitment to ensuring students receive a world-class education in a first-rate learning environment while relieving the pressure on local taxpayers, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) today announced that a grant has recently been executed for the Fort Lee School District through the SDA’s Regular Operating District (ROD) grant program. Grant execution signifies completion of the application process and the start of funding being issued to school districts through the SDA’s ROD grant program.

“Through our partnership with local school districts, this funding helps to ensure all students and school staff members across the State have access to high-quality learning environments that support positive learning outcomes. By addressing important school building upgrade projects, we are creating safe, healthy facilities for generations of young learners,” said SDA CEO Manuel Da Silva.

This grant is part of the \$450 million in grant funding announced by the SDA and New Jersey Department of Education in September 2023. Funding for this school construction initiative was made possible through legislation and grant funding from SDA allocations. Between state and local contributions, the total project costs of the eligible projects across the state are estimated to exceed \$1 billion. This significant investment impacts hundreds of local communities around the state by helping districts leverage resources to pay for important school facility projects while continuing to bolster the State’s construction industry.

The project in Fort Lee School District represents more than \$1.4 million in total estimated costs including a state grant of \$567,000, which leverages the local contribution of \$850,500. The SDA has executed more than \$9.9 million in grants to the Fort Lee School District since the start of the State’s school construction program.

The grant will provide funds for HVAC upgrades at Lewis F. Cole Middle School.

The state-grant program funds at least 40 percent of eligible costs for projects in the RODs, addressing health and safety issues and other critical needs.

School Name	Total Project Cost Estimate	State Share	Local Share
Lewis F. Cole M.S. – HVAC upgrades	\$1,417,500	\$567,000	\$850,500

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