



For More Information:

Andrea Pasquine - (609) 633-2474

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NJSDA ANNOUNCES THE FIRST PHASE TOWARD STANDARDIZATION OF SCHOOL DESIGNS

TRENTON – The New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) in an effort to implement standardized designs for SDA school facilities projects has released model systems and components to be used during construction of new facilities including standards for roofing, HVAC systems, flooring, finishes and more.

Following Governor Christie’s announcement in March 2011, SDA has been developing methods to utilize standardization in all public school facilities projects in the State of New Jersey that are managed by the SDA. Standardization on all SDA projects will be implemented in phases. The first phase culminates with the release of the “Materials and Systems Standards Manual” and the “Construction Details Manual”. The successful execution of standardized components will facilitate expedited design reviews and code inspections for faster delivery of school facilities projects.

The “Materials and Systems Standards Manual” and the “Construction Details Manual” were developed to establish a uniform approach to SDA school facilities project design as well as to accomplish goals such as attaining parity amongst all SDA Districts and establishing a cost effective approach in constructing SDA school facilities projects by requiring the repeated use of defined materials and systems. In doing so, the SDA will be able to provide more facilities for more students utilizing its limited resources. Standardization also establishes a means for SDA school facilities projects to be built in an educationally appropriate, sustainable, clean and environmentally friendly manner. For more information, please visit www.njsda.gov/Design/index.html.

The remaining two phases of the NJSDA Model Schools Program standardization plan, the “Kit of Parts” which will provide uniform designs for classrooms and other school facility areas and the “2011 Design Manual” which will be the first design update since 2007, will be released by the Authority in the near future.

The SDA’s ongoing portfolio of school facilities projects includes hundreds of grant projects in Regular Operating Districts, three new construction projects, 10 SDA projects identified as part of the 2011 Capital Program and more than 100 emergent projects in SDA Districts.

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