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NJ Schools Development Authority Continues Aggressive Rebate Recovery Effort - Nearly \$3 Million Reclaimed for School Construction Program

TRENTON – Through an aggressive agenda to recover funds for future projects, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Marc Larkins announced today that the SDA has received reimbursements through state and federal rebate programs totaling \$2,980,370 in 2011 alone. Rebates received by the SDA this year are significantly higher than rebates received in prior years. Previously, the highest rebate received by the Authority was \$725,000 in 2007.

“SDA has turned the tide on recovering funds for the program. This large increase in rebates received was accomplished by taking advantage of building energy-efficient school construction within the state in order to bring down the cost of new construction, renovations, additions, remodeling and equipment replacement,” said Larkins.

Three different programs were aggressively pursued for rebates by the SDA. Two are state rebate programs - Smart Start and the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund (HDSRF) and the third is the federal E-Rate program.

Smart Start rebates were provided from the New Jersey Clean Energy Program, which works to build energy efficiency into commercial construction projects. The energy rebates received pertaining to school construction projects were provided for the following school projects: Neptune Midtown Community Elementary School - \$340,179, Egg Harbor City Community School - \$68,027 and Pemberton Township Early Childhood Center - \$19,077.

The HDSRF was utilized in obtaining \$1,588,519. The HDSRF provides funding for public and qualifying private entities for the remediation of environmental conditions. Rebates, in the amount of \$964,568, were provided by E-Rate, a federal program recognizing the technological needs of both schools and libraries.

“Obtaining rebates are important in helping to keep school construction costs as low as possible. The SDA is committed to building sustainable, energy-efficient schools and, at the same time, maximizing rebate opportunities to generate additional revenues in support of project needs,” said Larkins.

Since the inception of the schools construction program, over \$5.4 million has been recovered from rebate programs. All recovered funds go toward future projects in the 31 SDA districts.

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