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Christie Administration Advances Emergent Repair Projects at Mary Ethel Costello Elementary School in Gloucester City

TRENTON – As part of Governor Christie’s commitment to ensuring New Jersey’s school facilities are safe learning environments for all students, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) has advanced construction of two emergent repair projects estimated at more than \$450,000 at Mary Ethel Costello Elementary School in Gloucester City. More emergent projects have been completed under this Administration than any other prior administration.

“This Administration is equally committed to repairing and rehabilitating existing school buildings as it is to rebuilding those that need to be replaced,” said CEO Marc Larkins. “With limited available funding, we are advancing these projects in a targeted and effective manner to ensure quality learning environments for students in Gloucester City and throughout the state.”

The first of the emergent repair projects at Mary Ethel Costello Elementary School will install a new fire suppression system in the basement areas to address a fire code violation. The second emergent repair project will complete masonry repairs to the school’s chimney.

Emergent projects are those deemed necessary in SDA Districts due to potential health and safety issues. The Emergent Project Program provides assistance to SDA District school facilities in need of repair and rehabilitation. Emergent projects include the repair or replacement of roofs; windows; exterior masonry; heating and cooling systems; and plumbing, electrical, mechanical and security systems, as well as addressing water infiltration issues.

Prior to the Christie Administration, funds available for these projects were nearly exhausted and project review procedures were insufficient making it difficult to prioritize critical projects in a deliberate and cost efficient manner. In 2011, the SDA and Department of Education (DOE) launched its second statewide effort to identify, evaluate and validate eligible emergent conditions in the 31 SDA Districts.

The SDA manages many projects identified as emergent, while others are delegated for District management, depending upon the project’s scope and complexity. These emergent projects have been delegated to Gloucester City Public Schools for management. For those projects that are delegated, the SDA executes a grant agreement with the District, who is then responsible for procuring and disbursing payment to the consultants and contractors, while the SDA maintains oversight throughout the process.

The SDA’s current portfolio of active projects is valued at over \$2.2 billion – including the 2011 and 2012 Capital Project portfolios (more than \$1B), additional projects in construction (\$198.3M), emergent projects (\$45.9M) and Regular Operating District grants (\$771M in state share)

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