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## **Christie Administration Celebrates New Addition at School Number 2 in Linden** *SDA CEO Tours School and Speaks with Students*

LINDEN, NJ –Schools Development Authority (SDA) Chief Executive Officer Marc Larkins joined Linden School district officials and students to highlight the opening of an addition funded in part by \$2.4 million in state grants through the SDA’s Regular Operating District (ROD) grant program. The state funding provided through the ROD grant program leverages local taxpayer dollars enabling school districts such as Linden to provide much-needed improvements while creating jobs for New Jersey’s construction industry.

“This project represents the positive impact that the Christie Administration is having on the state’s educational infrastructure,” said CEO Marc Larkins. “Linden students now have the opportunity to start this school year in a new educational space that will benefit current and future generations of students. The state funding provided through the ROD Grant program is leveraging local taxpayer dollars, allowing for capital improvement projects and the creation of construction-related jobs throughout the state.”

At today’s event, CEO Marc Larkins toured the completed addition and spoke with a class of first grade students to hear first-hand about the positive impact of their new classrooms. The grant project at School Number 2 included a 33,527 square-foot addition of a two-story steel frame building that was connected to the existing school. The new structure includes 19 classrooms, one pre-kindergarten handicapped classroom, one gross motor skills room, three small group instruction rooms, a nurse’s suite and school offices. The project also included a new playground and parking area.

Since Governor Christie took office in January 2010, the SDA has executed 924 grants. 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. The Department of Education selects school projects to receive grant funding from the SDA. The State has provided more than \$338 million in grants for projects at 569 schools in 243 local school districts in all 21 counties since January 2010, leveraging projects estimated at a total of nearly \$800 million.

The SDA’s current portfolio of active projects is valued at over \$2 billion – including the 2011 and 2012 Capital Project portfolios (more than \$1 billion), additional projects in construction (\$132 million), emergent projects (\$43 million) and Regular Operating District grants (\$743 million state share).

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