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**\$4.9 Million SDA Regular Operating District (ROD) Grant Facilitates Completion
of New Addition at J.P. Cleary Elementary School**
Christie Administration Officials Participate in Building Dedication Ceremony

MINOTOLA, NJ –Schools Development Authority (SDA) Chief Executive Officer Marc Larkins yesterday joined Buena Regional School district officials, students and community members in a dedication ceremony for the addition to the Dr. J.P. Cleary Elementary School, funded in part by a \$4.9 million state grant 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 Buena Regional to provide much-needed improvements while creating jobs for New Jersey’s construction industry.

“The State’s ROD Grant program is one more way that the Christie Administration is ensuring a quality education for all New Jersey students while easing the burden on local taxpayers,” said CEO Marc Larkins. “Since the start of the Christie Administration, Buena Regional School District has benefited from nearly \$6 million in state funding for executed projects across the district. This funding, along with the commitment and hard work of Buena Regional District officials, will provide generations of students with learning environments that will help them reach their educational potential.”

The grant project at Cleary Elementary School included the addition of a new cafeteria, specialized classrooms and stage, demolition of a three story wing (original school) and alterations to the remaining wings of the school. Originally named the Minotola School it was erected in 1928 and later named the J.P. Cleary School in the 1940s. Numerous additions were made to the building over the nine decades it housed the middle school population for the communities of Buena Vista Township and Buena Borough. With the opening of Buena Regional Middle School, a project managed by the SDA, this school was able to undergo the renovations and additions needed. The school now accommodates 287 students in fourth and fifth grades.

Since Governor Christie took office in January 2010, the SDA has executed 924 ROD grants throughout the state. 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 New Jersey 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 (\$86 million), emergent projects (\$43 million) and Regular Operating District grants (\$743 million state share).

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