



For More Information:
Edye Maier – (609) 292-6246
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Christie Administration Announces Advertisement for the New Oliver Street Elementary School Project

TRENTON, NJ – The Christie Administration today announced the issuance of an advertisement from the Schools Development Authority (SDA) for a new facility to replace the Oliver Street Elementary School in Newark, which was constructed in 1869. This school is one of six schools in Newark’s Ironbound section that is more than 100 years old.

“We are proud that the program is finally bringing the first new school replacement project to the Newark Ironbound community,” said CEO Marc Larkins. “This project has enjoyed overwhelming community support and this advertisement represents the next step towards the new school becoming a reality.”

The construction of this highly anticipated school will result in a 130,000 square foot facility to accommodate 850 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grades that will be located on a site west of the present school on a block bounded by Oliver Street, New Jersey Railroad Avenue, East Kinney Street and McWhorter Street. The new building will address the severe overcrowding that exists at the current school, where classes are currently being conducted in hallways, closets and the auditorium due to a lack of space. The new building will include general classrooms, specialized instructional classrooms and labs, a media center, multi-purpose/assembly room, cafeteria and gymnasium, as well as administrative and support facilities.

In an effort to utilize practices that have previously proven successful by the SDA, the Oliver Street Elementary School will be constructed using a design-build approach. The design-build method differs from the traditional approach toward bidding projects by allowing the SDA to contract with one firm for both design and construction of school facilities projects. Because design-build allows for some design and construction activities to proceed concurrently through phased advancement, it is more efficient than the traditional approach, which involves retaining an architect to design the project, then bidding out the construction contract.

The construction cost estimate for the Oliver Street Elementary School is \$38,867,000. This school will be the sixth new facility built in Newark by the SDA. The SDA has already completed construction of Science Park High School in 2006, First Avenue School in 2007, Central High School in 2008, Park School in 2009 and Speedway Avenue Elementary School in 2010.

The SDA previously completed demolition of four existing structures on the site in August 2010. In September 2012, the SDA issued a notice to proceed for early site preparation work which

included excavation, loading, and disposal of impacted soil and concrete, the removal of one underground storage tank, and importation of certified clean fill to be compacted and graded.

This project was selected for advancement as part of the 2011 Capital Project Portfolio announced by the Governor in February 2011. More information on this advertisement can be found on the SDA website at: http://www.njsda.gov/Business/CV/Projects/Projects_NW.asp.

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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