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## **Christie Administration Awards \$80 Million Construction Contract for New Phillipsburg High School Project**

PHILLIPSBURG, NJ – Standing at the future site of the new Phillipsburg High School, Christie Administration officials from the Schools Development Authority (SDA) today announced the award of a construction contract to build the new facility. The award of this \$80 million construction contract represents one of the largest single construction awards in the state and signifies the advancement of this project, a significant step that no other administration has been able to achieve.

“The Christie Administration’s investment in Phillipsburg continues our efforts to support facility improvements statewide,” said SDA CEO Marc Larkins. “Today’s announcement marks the start of a process that will result in the delivery of a state-of-the-art high school that will prepare Phillipsburg students for generations to come.”

The construction of this highly anticipated school will result in a 330,021 square-foot facility to accommodate 1,846 students in grades nine to twelve. The building, which will be located on a 122-acre hilltop site in Lopatcong, includes 50 general classrooms, six special education classrooms, twelve small group instruction rooms, three health classrooms, twelve science related classrooms, three business labs, three computer labs, vocal and instrument music rooms, a media center, an auditorium, a cafeteria and a gymnasium. The high school will also contain vocational spaces that will offer instruction in areas including agriculture, child development, foods, textiles, electronics, and energy/transportation. The school is anticipated for completion in August 2016.

“The Phillipsburg School District is thrilled with the news that the contract for construction on the new high school is being awarded today,” said Phillipsburg School District Superintendent George Chando. “Through the collaborative efforts of the SDA, the Phillipsburg School District and Board of Education, and Governor Christie’s Administration, in the very near future, our students will have a facility that will enhance the academic programs we offer and prepare students to continue in a career pathway to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

On April 22, 2013, Epic Management, Inc. of Piscataway received a Notice of Award of an \$80.5 million construction contract to build a new Phillipsburg High School. DIGroup Architecture of New Brunswick is the architect for the project and Heery International of Newark is the construction manager.

Following Issuance of a Notice to Proceed, the initial phase of this award will begin with a required Constructability Review. The Constructability Review will provide the contractor with an opportunity to scrutinize the contract documents (plans and specifications) to identify any issues which would impact the schedule or cost of completion, so that such issues can be resolved before commencement of construction. Following the conclusion of this review process and the SDA’s agreement with its results, the contractor will be issued a separate notice-to-proceed to begin construction of the school.

This project was selected for advancement as part of the 2012 Capital Project Portfolio announced by Governor Christie in February 2012. 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 (\$100 million), emergent projects (\$50 million) and Regular Operating District grants (\$604 million state share).

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