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Christie Administration Announces Completion of Emergent Project in Newark



NEWARK – New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Marc Larkins joined state and Newark Public Schools officials in celebrating the completion of the first emergent repair project both designed and managed by SDA staff at the Wilson Avenue Elementary School.

“In partnership with Newark Public Schools, the rehabilitation work to this 19th century building was expedited with each entity doing its part to bring it to completion,” said Larkins. “The completion of this project marks a proud day for the SDA and demonstrates the Christie Administration’s commitment to ensure that New Jersey’s educational facilities provide students an environment in which they can thrive.”

The need for this project was due to significant damage sustained during Hurricane Irene in 2011. The Wilson Avenue Elementary School, built in 1881, with three additions completed in 1890, 1910 and 1921, is a 105,000 square foot facility that educates 836 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grades. The completed work included the replacement of 133 original wood frame windows with new aluminum windows, repointing of all masonry joints, replacement of damaged bricks and stones, replacement of missing roof shingles and repair of roof underlayment. Also included was exterior paint removal and repainting, repair of existing cornice and gutters, repair and replacement of downspouts and the removal of all window screens. Construction began in August 2012 and was performed in the evening hours so as not to interfere with the school’s daily routine.

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

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masonry; heating and cooling systems; and plumbing, electrical, mechanical and security systems, as well as addressing water infiltration issues.

The SDA has invested \$530 million in completed projects in Newark alone including ten Capital projects and 93 health and safety/grant projects. 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 (\$577 million state share).

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