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Christie Administration Marks Opening of New Oliver Street School



NEWARK, NJ – Exemplifying the Christie Administration’s record of building school facilities efficiently, New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Charles McKenna joined Newark students, and state and local officials to mark the opening of the new Oliver Street School. The new school is the second facility to be completed and opened by the SDA this year.

“It is great to be back in Newark today to celebrate the opening of another new school for the students of New Jersey’s largest school district,” said SDA CEO Charles McKenna. “The Oliver Street School is the second school that SDA has opened in Newark this year - both ahead of original school occupancy dates. This achievement is possible when you build schools in a manner which not only ensures efficient use of taxpayer dollars, but also utilizes design standards and construction practices that encourage quality and durability.”

Located in the East Ward, the new 137,000 square foot Oliver Street School will educate approximately 850 students in Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grades with 30 general use classrooms, four kindergarten classrooms, six prekindergarten classrooms, specialized instruction classrooms and labs, a media center, separate cafeteria, gymnasium and a multipurpose room with a stage. The original Oliver Street School will temporarily be used for South Street School students while the SDA builds their new facility.

“It is an honor to welcome the parents, students and teachers of Oliver Street School to this beautiful, new facility,” said Superintendent Cerf of Newark Public Schools. “The students of Oliver Street School will now be able to learn and grow in a state-of-the-art facility that will not only be a positive a place for students to learn, but will also be a benefit to the community— as the first newly constructed school building this neighborhood has welcomed in over a century.”

The school was built using the design-build approach. The SDA continues to utilize a design-build approach for the construction of many new facilities. This method differs from the traditional approach by allowing the SDA to contract with one firm for both design and construction of a school facilities project. The design-build method also allows for some design and construction activities to proceed concurrently through phased advancement, an approach that potentially allows for improvement upon the original overall schedule.

The SDA has invested nearly \$700 million in completed projects in Newark, including \$73.6 million for the new Oliver Street School. Epic Management, Inc. of Piscataway, NJ was the design-build contractor working in partnership with NK Architects of Morristown, NJ on the design. The project was managed by Gilbane Building Company of New Brunswick, NJ.

The South Street School is another project being constructed by the SDA in Newark. This school is currently in the design phase of the design-build contract and is anticipated to begin construction in the 3rd quarter of 2016.

The SDA’s current portfolio of active projects is valued at \$2 billion – including the Capital Project Portfolio, emergent projects and Regular Operating District grants.

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