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Christie Administration Marks Opening of the Renovated Bridgeton Buckshutem Road School



BRIDGETON, NJ – The New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) today joined Bridgeton students to mark the opening of the Buckshutem Road School, one of seven new or renovated facilities the SDA opened this month.

“The renovated Buckshutem Road School provides space to accommodate approximately 195 additional students as we work to alleviate the overcrowding that exists in the district,” said SDA CEO Charles McKenna. “Every student in Bridgeton and throughout the State deserves a school environment that will foster academic excellence. With the completion of the addition and significant renovations at Buckshutem Road School, students now have access to a school that provides the educational tools they need to succeed.”

The 51,380 square foot addition to the existing Buckshutem Road School increased the capacity for students in kindergarten through eighth grades. The addition includes nine new classrooms, two science labs, a science demo lab, a technology lab, an art room and a 5,357-square-foot gymnasium. The addition also created a new courtyard that provides seven learning spaces. The renovation work included the conversion of the original gymnasium to a media center and the existing media center to a student services center.

“I am ecstatic and excited that the Schools Development Authority has provided the resources to the Bridgeton School District to enable us to reduce overcrowding in classrooms throughout the district,” said

Bridgeton Superintendent Dr. Thomasina Jones. “Students now have a state-of-the-art facility where all of their educational needs, focusing on science, technology, engineering and math to make them college and career ready, will be addressed.”

The project was built using the design-build approach. This method differs from the traditional approach in that it allows 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 allows for improvement upon the original overall schedule.

To date, the SDA has invested \$62.5 million toward completed projects in Bridgeton, including \$23.3 million for the renovated Buckshutem Road School. Ernest Bock and Sons, Inc. of Philadelphia was the design-build contractor, working in partnership with DMR Architects of Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey on the design. The project was managed by STV Construction, Inc. of New York.

In 2016 alone, the SDA opened nine new or renovated school facilities in communities throughout the State. These projects provide nearly 8,500 new seats and represent a state investment of more than \$553 million. The SDA's current portfolio of active projects is valued at approximately \$2 billion - including the Capital Project Portfolio, Emergent Projects and Regular Operating District grants.

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