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NJSDA ANNOUNCES THE SECOND PHASE TOWARD STANDARDIZATION OF SCHOOL DESIGNS

TRENTON – The New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) has released the “Kit of Parts” as the next step towards the advancement of standardization of school designs to be used during construction of new school facilities. The “Kit of Parts” will introduce more consistency across designs for classrooms and other school facility areas.

Following Governor Christie’s announcement in March 2011, the SDA has been developing methods to utilize standardization in all public school facilities projects in the State of New Jersey that are managed by the SDA. The successful execution of standardized components will facilitate expedited design reviews and code inspections for faster delivery of school facilities projects. Standardization on all SDA projects is being implemented in phases. The first phase culminated in November with the release of the “Materials and Systems Standards Manual” and the “Construction Details Manual”.

Phase Two, the “Kit of Parts” was developed to create model school components, which can easily be rearranged to accommodate the various shapes and sizes of the school sites and can be used across multiple Capital Program projects. The “Kit of Parts” consists of three parts – Model Programs, Model Educational Specifications and Component Elements.

Model Programs describe the amount and types of rooms and spaces that are needed in a school facility. Four basic models have been developed with 16 potential variations.

Model Educational Specifications include two features - Room Ed Specs and Room Fit-Out Lists. Room Ed Specs describe the programs and activities that are needed at the new facility, the desired spatial relationships and the special environmental requirements of each space. Room Fit-Out Lists describe the amount, type and size of required fit-out elements, such as furniture, fixtures, technology, etc., and identify the party responsible for providing them.

The final part is the Component Elements which are the basic building blocks of a school facility. Component Elements include four components: Instructional (classrooms, labs and administrative areas), Large Group (specialized areas for art and music, PE, dining and assembly areas), Core (main office, nurse and media center) and PK (pre-kindergarten classrooms and support).

The remaining phase of the NJSDA Model Schools Program standardization plan, the “2011 Design Manual” which will be the first design update since 2007, will be released by the Authority in the near future.

The SDA Model Schools Program was developed to establish a consistent approach to SDA school facilities project design as well as to accomplish goals such as attaining parity amongst all SDA Districts and establishing a cost effective approach in constructing SDA school facilities projects by requiring the repeated use of defined materials and systems. In doing so, the SDA will be able to provide more facilities for more students utilizing its limited resources. Standardization also establishes a means for SDA school facilities projects to be built in an educationally appropriate, sustainable, clean and environmentally friendly manner. For more information, please visit www.njsda.gov/Design/index.html.

The SDA's ongoing portfolio of school facilities projects includes hundreds of grant projects in Regular Operating Districts, four new construction projects, 10 SDA projects identified as part of the 2011 Capital Program and various emergent projects in SDA Districts.

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