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Christie Administration Announces \$1.4 Million in State Funding for Improvements at Sussex County Technical High School

SPARTA, NJ – Schools Development Authority (SDA) Chief Executive Officer Marc Larkins joined district and local officials to announce two large state grants for the Sussex County Technical High School through the SDA's Regular Operating District (ROD) grant program. The \$1.4 Million in state funding leverages local taxpayer dollars to enable the district to provide much-needed improvements to the county school.

“The Christie Administration remains focused on delivering a robust school construction program that assists all types of school facilities in New Jersey, including our county vocational schools,” said SDA CEO Marc Larkins. “The students of Sussex County Technical High School and the state's other Vocational schools continue to benefit from this state grant funding. By leveraging local resources, SDA is utilizing our limited resources efficiently to impact more facilities and students statewide.”

The first grant announced today will allow for improvements to the auditorium, including the replacement of the existing electrical system with a hot water heating system. The second grant will restore and repair the exterior of the auditorium and include the repointing of masonry, installation of masonry anchors, replacement of stone coping and modify the roof accordingly.

In addition to the grants announced, Sussex County Technical High School has been the beneficiary of six other ROD grants totaling nearly \$650,000 in state funding since January 2010. These grants included work to replace existing boilers and controls, replacement of kitchen electrical panels and HVAC equipment, connections to the municipal water system, replacement of the main electrical panel and upgrades to the telephone system.

Since Governor Christie took office in January 2010, the SDA has executed 868 grants. The state-grant program funds at least 40 percent of eligible costs for projects in the RODs, addressing health and safety issues, student overcrowding and other critical needs. The Department of Education selects school projects to receive grant funding from the SDA. The State has provided more than \$310 million in grants to local districts since January 2010, leveraging projects estimated at a total of nearly \$740 million. Funding for the program was made available through the sale of \$500 million in bonds by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA).

The SDA's current portfolio of active projects is valued at over \$2.2 billion – including the 2011 and 2012 Capital Project portfolios (more than \$1B), additional projects in construction (\$194M), emergent projects (\$50M) and Regular Operating District grants (\$792M state share).

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