



For More Information:

Andrea Pasquine – (609) 633-2474

September 6, 2012

Christie Administration Advances Emergent Repair Projects in Newark

TRENTON – As part of Governor Christie’s commitment to ensuring New Jersey’s school facilities are safe learning environments for all students, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) has advanced construction of two emergent repair projects in Newark. More emergent projects have been completed under this Administration than any prior administration.

“Maintaining a quality educational infrastructure for the children of New Jersey is paramount for the Christie Administration,” said CEO Marc Larkins “This Administration continues to advance work at a steady pace to provide learning environments where the children can excel, both in Newark and throughout the State.”

The two emergent repair projects include exterior masonry repairs at Hawthorne Avenue Elementary School and structural repairs to the chimney at West Side High School. Hawthorne Avenue Elementary School educates over 290 students in kindergarten through eighth grades. West Side High School educates more than 960 students in ninth through twelfth grades.

The SDA has invested more than \$525 million in completed projects in Newark alone, including ten capital projects and 93 health and safety/grant projects.

Emergent projects are those deemed necessary in SDA Districts due to potential health and safety issues. Emergent projects include the repair or replacement of roofs; windows; exterior masonry; heating and cooling systems; and plumbing, electrical, mechanical and security systems, and also address water infiltration issues.

Prior to the Christie Administration, funds available for these projects were nearly exhausted and project review procedures were insufficient, making it difficult to prioritize critical projects in a deliberate and cost efficient manner. In 2011, the SDA and Department of Education (DOE) launched a statewide effort to identify and evaluate eligible emergent conditions in the 31 SDA Districts. The conditions that were evaluated and validated had been reported by the local districts.

The SDA manages many projects identified as emergent, while others are delegated for District management, depending upon the project’s scope and complexity. The Hawthorne Avenue Elementary School and West Side High School emergent projects have been delegated to Newark Public Schools for management. For those projects that are delegated, the SDA executes a grant agreement with the District, which is then responsible for procuring and disbursing payment to the consultants and contractors. The SDA maintains oversight throughout this process.

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 \$1 billion), additional projects in construction (\$198.3 million), emergent projects (\$45.9 million) and Regular Operating District grants (\$771 million in state share).