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Christie Administration Advances Emergent Repair Projects in Asbury Park

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 Asbury Park. More emergent projects have been completed under this Administration than any prior administration.

“The Christie Administration’s commitment to the rehabilitation of school facilities throughout New Jersey’s SDA Districts is an important component of maintaining a quality educational infrastructure,” said CEO Marc Larkins. “With limited funding available, we are advancing these projects in a targeted and effective manner to ensure quality learning environments for students in Asbury Park and throughout the state.”

The two emergent repair projects consist of roofing repairs at Asbury Park High School and Asbury Park Middle School. Asbury Park High School educates over 425 students in grades nine through twelve. Asbury Park Middle School educates over 350 students in grades five through eight.

The SDA has invested more than \$26.7 million in completed projects in Asbury Park, including two capital 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 Asbury Park High School and Asbury Park Middle School emergent projects have been delegated to Asbury Park School District 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 payments 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 billion – including the 2011 and 2012 Capital Project portfolios (more than \$1 billion), additional projects in construction (\$86 million), emergent projects (\$43 million) and Regular Operating District grants (\$743 million state share).