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Christie Administration Announces Emergent Repairs to Begin in Newark

TRENTON – Furthering Governor Christie's commitment to ensuring that New Jersey students are educated in facilities that foster quality learning, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) has approved the start of construction for an emergent repair project at West Side High School in Newark, New Jersey. More emergent projects have been completed by the Christie Administration than any prior administration.

“As announced earlier this year, the Christie Administration is committed to addressing the most critical needs of existing school facilities across New Jersey,” said CEO Marc Larkins. “The advancement of this emergent project is another step toward meeting that goal.”

A contract with a not-to-exceed amount of \$51,117 was awarded to Grafas Painting Contractors Inc., a general contractor located in Millburn, New Jersey to perform a switchgear refurbishment. Built in 1925, West Side High School is a 144,000 square foot facility that educates approximately 700 students in ninth through twelfth grades.

The SDA has invested more than \$525 million in completed projects in Newark alone, including ten capital projects.

Emergent projects are those deemed necessary in SDA Districts due to potential health and safety issues. The Emergent Project Program provides assistance to SDA District school facilities in need of repair and rehabilitation. Emergent projects include the repair or replacement of roofs, windows, exterior masonry, heating and cooling systems, and plumbing, electrical, mechanical and security systems. Emergent funds are also utilized to 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. Depending upon the project's scope and complexity, the SDA manages many projects identified as emergent, while others are delegated for District management. The West Side High School emergent project will be managed by the SDA.

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).

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