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Governor Christie Marks Grand Opening of New Colin Powell Elementary School in Union City

Thursday, February 7, 2013 Tags: [Education](#)

Trenton, NJ - Taking another positive step toward providing excellent educational facilities for New Jersey students in a fiscally responsible, efficient manner, Governor Chris Christie joined New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Marc Larkins and Union City Mayor Brian P. Stack for the grand opening and ribbon-cutting of the new Colin Powell Elementary School in Union City. Completed under budget, the Colin Powell Elementary School exemplifies the Administration's commitment to ensure safe and healthy learning environments for New Jersey's students, without the wasteful spending and cost overruns that existed under previous administrations and previous school construction programs.

"The opening of this new facility is a demonstration of the positive outcomes that occur through collaborative partnership among state and local officials," said Governor Christie. "This is one of two new SDA project schools that opened in New Jersey this school year, providing students with the educational facilities they need to realize their educational potential. Generations of Union City students will benefit from the infrastructure investments we recognize here today."

The new Colin Powell Elementary School is a 121,505 square-foot, two-story facility designed to educate approximately 700 students in kindergarten through fifth grades. The building includes 31 general classrooms, special education spaces, two computer labs, one science demo lab, special instructional rooms, gymnasium, cafeteria, kitchen, two elevators, two play areas, and a below-grade parking garage for 46 vehicles including 2 handicapped spaces. The facility opened to students in September 2012.

"Every school construction project completed by the SDA offers students countless educational opportunities that will help prepare them for a bright future," said SDA CEO Marc Larkins. "This is a great day for the Union City community and we look forward to our continued partnership with local and school district officials as we work to address other district facility needs."

The SDA has invested more than \$272 million toward completed projects in Union City, including \$46.2 million for the Colin Powell Elementary School. The SDA's 2012 Project Portfolio includes a project to address the elementary grade school level needs. The SDA is working with the New Jersey Department of Education and Union City School District Officials to determine the most appropriate project to advance to satisfy this need.

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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Press Contact:
Michael Drewniak
Kevin Roberts
609-777-2600

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