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Christie Administration Advances Design Phase of New Oliver Street Elementary School Project in Newark

TRENTON, NJ – The New Jersey Schools Development Authority today announced the start of the design phase of the Design-Build project to replace the existing 144 year-old Oliver Street Elementary School with a new facility. This new building in Newark’s Ironbound section will address the severe overcrowding that exists at the current school.

“The start of this design project brings Newark students one step closer to learning in classrooms, rather than hallways and closets,” said SDA CEO Marc Larkins. “The Christie Administration is committed to ensuring that students have a proper place to be educated, and is proud to see the first new school replacement project in the Newark Ironbound community coming to fruition.”

The Oliver Street Elementary School project will provide a new, three-story, approximately 137,000 square-foot facility designed to educate 848 students in grades pre-kindergarten through eighth. The new building will include general classrooms, specialized instructional classrooms and labs, a media center, multi-purpose/assembly room, cafeteria and gymnasium, as well as administrative and support facilities.

The school will be located on a site west of the present school on a block bounded by Oliver Street, New Jersey Railroad Avenue, East Kinney Street and McWhorter Street. This site is being readied for construction through Phase I early site preparation work, which began in September 2012. This work included excavation, loading, and disposal of impacted soil and concrete, the removal of one underground storage tank, and importation of certified clean fill to be compacted and graded.

Epic Management, Inc. of Piscataway, New Jersey was awarded a \$40.9 million design-build contract in April 2013, for the design and construction of the new school. As part of the design-build contract, Epic Management, Inc. will work with Nadaskay Kopelson Architects of Morristown, New Jersey on the design. Gilbane Building Company of Lawrenceville, New Jersey was awarded a construction management contract for the project.

In an effort to utilize practices that have previously proven successful by the SDA, the Oliver Street Elementary School is being constructed using a design-build approach, with the SDA Kit-of-Parts as its foundation. The design-build method differs from the traditional approach by allowing for some design and construction activities to proceed concurrently through phased advancement.

Construction activities are forecasted to begin before the end of 2013. The building is anticipated for completion in the fall 2016 school-year.

This project was selected for advancement as part of the 2011 Capital Project Portfolio announced by Governor Christie in February 2011. More information on this advertisement can be found on the SDA website at: http://www.njsda.gov/Business/CV/Projects/Projects_NW.asp.

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 (\$100 million), emergent projects (\$50 million) and Regular Operating District grants (\$604 million state share).

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