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Christie Administration Visits Students at Newly-Renovated Pennsville Memorial High School

Pennsville Township School Improvements Made Possible Through New Jersey's Multi-Million Dollar ROD Grant Program



PENNSVILLE TOWNSHIP, NJ – Schools Development Authority (SDA) Chief Executive Officer Marc Larkins joined Pennsville Township School District, local officials and students on a tour of renovations made possible in part by \$589,340 in state funding through the SDA's Regular Operating District (ROD) grant program. This state funding leverages local taxpayer dollars to enable the district to provide much-needed improvements while creating jobs for New Jersey contractors.

“As a result of the funding provided by the state, Pennsville Memorial High School students now have pioneering science labs that will help enhance their science education opportunities” said SDA CEO Marc Larkins. “We look forward to similar future opportunities for students throughout the state thanks to the new round of funding for additional ROD Grants recently announced by Governor Christie.”

As this new school year begins, Pennsville Township High School students have access to four completely renovated science rooms, including those for chemistry and biology. During the Christie Administration, SDA has executed two grants to Pennsville Township School District, including the High School project and a roof replacement at Penn Beach Elementary School, representing a state investment of \$844,866.

“We welcome the Administration's efforts in paying important attention to these critical projects,” said

Assemblyman John Burzichelli. "Pennsville's kids will thrive with these needed improvements and it wouldn't have happened without this state funding."

"I am so encouraged to see that the money the legislature has allocated to the SDA is being directly spent on improvements to the classroom," said Assemblywoman Celeste Riley. "These infrastructure improvements are a direct investment in our future."

"Pennsville Township Public Schools is appreciative of the State's assistance in helping the District achieve our goals through these improvement projects," said Superintendent Dr. Michael Brodzik. "Through this partnership with the State, science education at Pennsville Memorial High School can continue to evolve to serve the development of our students."

Since the Christie Administration announced the resumption of the ROD grant program in May 2010, the SDA has executed 916 grants across the state. The state-grant program funds at least 40 percent of eligible costs for projects in the RODs, addressing health and safety issues, student overcrowding and other critical needs. Since the program's inception in 2001, the Pennsville Township School District has received nearly \$1.2 million in grants through the SDA's ROD grant program.

The Department of Education approves school projects to receive grant funding from the SDA. The State has provided \$290 million in grants to local districts since the May 2010 announcement, leveraging projects estimated at a total of \$679.7 million.

In May 2013, Governor Christie announced that an additional half billion dollars would be made available for needed construction projects in Regular Operating Districts and County Vocational Schools across New Jersey. The SDA's current portfolio of active grant projects represents more than \$1.5 billion in total project costs.

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