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Christie Administration Announces Start of Three New Schools In Newark
\$177 Million Investment to Bring 21st Century Learning Environments to More Than 2,300 Students



NEWARK, NJ – New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Charles McKenna joined Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., legislators, local officials, and Newark School District leaders today to announce the start of three new public schools in Newark. Standing on the active construction site of the future Elliott Street Elementary School, the attendees celebrated the start of construction for the Elliott Street and Oliver Street Elementary Schools, as well as the beginning of site preparation for South Street Elementary School.

“The advancement of these projects represents a state investment of more than \$177 million,” said SDA CEO Charles B. McKenna. “This funding is a clear demonstration of the State’s commitment to support Newark’s public schools and to partner with Superintendent Anderson and the representatives of Newark to ensure that all of Newark’s students have access to 21st century learning environments.”

“Every one of our students deserves a 21st century learning environment and we are thrilled with the work happening at Elliott, Oliver and South Street schools to modernize these buildings,” Newark Superintendent Cami Anderson said. “However, while today’s announcement, along with SDA’s wholesale commitment to Newark Public Schools, is great news, we have a long way to go until we have 100 excellent schools and all of our buildings meet the needs of our students. We will continue to work with our city’s educators, families, elected officials, and community leaders until we achieve this result for all of our children.”

"There is nothing more important than providing a quality education to our children, and having a clean and safe school building is vital to creating an environment that is conducive to learning," said Senator Ruiz (D-Essex), who serves as chair of the Senate Education Committee. "I am thrilled to see work on this new facility move forward as I know this project means a great deal to our students, our teaching staff and the entire community. I want to thank the Elliott Street School administration, staff, students and families for all of their efforts and patience throughout this process."

Following today's announcement, officials participated in a tour of all three construction sites.

Located in the North Ward, the new 138,000 square foot Elliott Street Elementary School is being built on the site of the former school which was demolished following fire damage caused by a lightning strike. Elliott Street students have attended school since that time at two former Catholic schools nearby. The new school will provide 848 students in Pre-K through eighth grades with 30 general use classrooms, four kindergarten classrooms, six prekindergarten classrooms, specialized instruction classrooms and labs, a media center, separate cafeteria, gymnasium and a multipurpose room with stage.

Construction of footings and foundations for Elliott Street Elementary School commenced in December 2013 and is nearly 50 percent complete. The state will invest \$46.7 million in this school which is anticipated for completion in the first quarter of 2016.

Located in the East Ward, the new 137,000 square foot Oliver Street Elementary School will replace the current antiquated school which was constructed in 1869. The building will provide 848 students in Pre-K through eighth grades with 30 general use classrooms, four kindergarten classrooms, six prekindergarten classrooms, specialized instruction classrooms and labs, a media center, separate cafeteria, gymnasium and a multipurpose room with stage.

The contractor will begin pouring the footings and foundations for Oliver Street Elementary School in the coming weeks. The \$73.6 million school is anticipated for completion in the first quarter of 2016.

Finally, early site preparation activities for the South Street Elementary School site began in January. This extensive \$8.2 million contract will allow for the excavation, disposal of materials and impacted soil, shoring and sheeting of the site, dewatering activities and site restoration topped with certified clean soil. The site work is estimated for completion by the end of 2014 to be followed by the award of the Design-Build contract in first quarter of 2015. The new South Street Elementary School will be designed to accommodate approximately 640 students in Pre-K through eighth grades. The total estimated project costs are \$57.1 million. The South Street School is scheduled to be opened in time for the 2017-2018 school year.

All three projects will be constructed utilizing 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.

SDA's three active projects in Newark represent more than \$177 million in total project costs. To date, the SDA has invested more than \$562 million in completed projects in Newark. This includes 11 capital projects and 121 Health and Safety/Grants/Emergent Projects.

The SDA's current portfolio of active projects is valued at more than \$2 billion – including the Capital Project Portfolio (more than \$1.5 billion), emergent projects (\$100 million) and Regular Operating District grants (\$450 million state share). SDA currently has seven school facilities projects in active construction.



PROJECT DETAILS

Elliott Street Elementary School

Total Project Costs: \$46.7 Million (SDA funds)¹

Students: 848

Grades: Pre-K-8

Estimated Occupancy Date: 1st Quarter 2016

Oliver Street Elementary School

Total Project Costs: \$73.6 million

Students: 848

Grades: Pre-K-8

Estimated Occupancy Date: 1st Quarter 2016

South Street Elementary School

Total Project Costs: \$57.1 Million

Early Site Preparation Contract: \$8.2 Million

Students: 640

Grades: Pre-K-8

Estimated Occupancy Date: 3rd Quarter 2017

¹ Approximately \$15 Million in insurance proceeds will also be used toward the construction of a new Elliott Street Elementary School.