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## Christie Administration Breaks Ground for New Marshall Street Elementary School



PATERSON, NJ – New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Charles McKenna joined legislators, local officials, and Paterson School District leaders today to break ground on the new Marshall Street Elementary School.

“This is a great day for the Paterson community as we mark the start of construction for the Marshall Street Elementary School which will provide 650 students with new seats in a 21<sup>st</sup> century school,” said SDA CEO Charles B. McKenna. “This school is one of nine SDA projects currently in active construction throughout the state, all aimed at addressing the needs that exist, including the overcrowding concerns here in Paterson.”

The new 108,000 square-foot Marshall Street Elementary school is designed to educate approximately 650 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The facility will include 23 general classrooms, four kindergarten classrooms, specialized instruction classrooms and labs, a media center, a gymnasium, a cafetorium and a community room. The project also includes a pedestrian bridge over the NJ Transit railroad right of way to provide access for those areas of the city to be served by the new school.

Paterson Public Schools’ Superintendent, Dr. Donnie Evans, commented, “Our school district is seriously disadvantaged because of our many facility needs. These needs range from overcrowded schools to trying to teach inside school buildings that do not meet 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning standards. We thank the NJSDA for recognizing our challenges and working to expedite the construction of this greatly needed elementary school.”

Ernest Bock & Sons of Philadelphia was awarded a \$29.3 million contract for construction of the new school. The notice to proceed for construction of Marshall Street Elementary School was issued

following the completion of the project's constructability review which provided the SDA and the contractor the opportunity to identify any potential conflicts and resulting cost impacts prior to the start of construction.

Today's groundbreaking event and the start of construction is a joyous day for the Paterson community. This project had previously started construction in 2009, but the project encountered significant obstacles that impacted its advancement. As a result, the SDA engagements for construction and construction management were terminated in November 2010. SDA staff undertook a review and validation of the project's design and completed work to date, in order to recommend a plan for advancement of the project. The review determined that the project would be best advanced by a two phase construction process. The first step, early site preparation, was completed in November 2012. The second phase, construction of the school, was initiated with the required constructability review in June 2013. Construction activities are anticipated for completion in time for students to start the 2016-2017 school-year in their new school.

Additionally in Paterson, the SDA recently advanced a design-build contract for the new P.S. 16. The SDA has invested nearly \$290 million in completed projects in Paterson alone including six Capital projects (International H.S., Number 24 E.S., Madison Avenue K Center, John F. Kennedy H.S., Roberto Clemente E.S., PANTHER Academy) and 53 health and safety/grant/emergent projects.

The SDA's current portfolio of active projects is valued at nearly \$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).

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