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Christie Administration Announces Start of Design-Build Contract for New Elementary School in Passaic

TRENTON, NJ – The Christie Administration announced the start of the design phase of the design-build project to build a new Leonard Place Elementary School, another significant project being delivered through the efficient and responsible school construction program managed by the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA).

“After the recent completion of the Passaic Gifted and Talented Academy, the start of the Leonard Place project marks the beginning of the second project of three that will go a long way toward alleviating the overcrowding that exists in Passaic,” said SDA CEO Charles McKenna. “These new facilities will provide students with an environment where they can focus on their education and excel.”

The new 105,000 square-foot, three-story school will be designed to educate approximately 700 students in kindergarten through fifth grades. The school will include 30 general classrooms, four self-contained special education classrooms, six small group instruction classrooms, a science classroom, rooms for support services, a multipurpose room, a gymnasium, an art room and music room, a cafeteria, and a media center.

Dobco, Inc. of Wayne, New Jersey was awarded a \$32.7 million design-build contract and issued a notice to proceed with design on January 14, 2016. As part of its design-build engagement, Dobco, Inc. will work with Di Cara / Rubino Architects also of Wayne, New Jersey on the design.

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

The new school will be built on the Leonard Place site that was acquired by the SDA in 2008 and 2009. The school will be across the street from the recently completed Passaic Gifted and Talented Academy. The building is anticipated for completion prior to the start of school in September 2018. The total estimated SDA project cost for the new school, inclusive of all previous expenditures, is \$55.9 million.

The completion of the Leonard Place School will permit the District to move students from the School on the 12-acre Dayton Avenue site so that demolition and construction of a multi-structure Educational Campus which will include a Pre-Kindergarten, Elementary and Middle School can move forward.

The SDA's current portfolio of active projects is valued at more than \$2 billion – including the Capital Project Portfolio, emergent projects and Regular Operating District grants. SDA currently has 12 school facilities project in active construction.

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