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Governor Christie Marks Opening of New Phillipsburg High School

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Tags: [Budget and Spending](#)



Project Demonstrates Efficient Use of Taxpayer Dollars in School Construction

Trenton, NJ – Governor Chris Christie today joined New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Charles McKenna, Phillipsburg School District leaders and students to officially open the new Phillipsburg High School, one of seven new or renovated facilities opened by the SDA this September.

"With the opening of Phillipsburg High School, this Administration has delivered what past administrations could only promise," said Governor Chris Christie. "Through sweeping reforms we have made sure that the inefficiency and wasteful spending habits of previous administrations would not be repeated. The result – new schools opening throughout the State advancing our efforts to ensure that each and every child in New Jersey has access to the quality education they deserve."

The new 330,000 square-foot Phillipsburg High School is designed to educate 2,172 students in grades nine through twelve. It includes 50 general classrooms, 12 small group instruction rooms, three health classrooms, 12 science labs, 4 computer and business labs, vocal and instrument rooms, classrooms to support the arts curriculum, a media center that includes two classroom writing labs; an auditorium that includes two large group instruction rooms; a cafeteria, a gymnasium, an auxiliary gym, as well as vocational spaces that support instruction in child development, foods, textiles, electronics, energy transportation (auto lab) and materials lab. The school also includes classrooms and laboratories for the intensive Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education program, involving highly technical science, math and engineering-based instruction in agriculture, plant and animal science.

"As we celebrate this significant day with the community, it is clear that this Administration has kept its promise to the Phillipsburg Staters," said SDA CEO Charles B. McKenna. "Successful partnerships with our fellow state agencies, the school district and local officials were essential to bringing a project of this size to completion."

Prior to the Christie Administration's reforms, the SDA was roundly criticized for its inefficiency, lack of construction progress and waste of taxpayer dollars. Upon taking office, Governor Christie took action to institute an objective prioritization of statewide educational needs and the advancement of sound design and construction principles to ensure that the wasteful spending habits of previous administrations would not be repeated.

Overall, the SDA has invested \$171.5 million toward completed projects in Phillipsburg, including \$127.5 million for the new High School. Epic Management, Inc., of Piscataway, New Jersey was the contractor on the project. The construction manager was Heery International, Inc., of Newark, and the architect was DIGroup Architecture, LLC, of New Brunswick.

In 2016 alone, the SDA opened nine new or renovated school facilities in communities throughout the State. These projects provide nearly 8,500 new seats and represent a state investment of more than \$553 million. The SDA's current portfolio of active projects is valued at approximately \$2 billion - including the Capital Project Portfolio, Emergent Projects and Regular Operating District grants.

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