The New Jersey Schools Development Authority

A Leader In School Construction

In 1998, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled in the Abbott v. Burke case that the State must provide 100 percent funding for all school renovation and construction projects in 31 school districts. In response, the New Jersey Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act (the "Act") was enacted on July 18, 2000 and started the State's school construction program.

The New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) is responsible for the funding and project management of new construction, modernization and renovation of school facilities projects in 31 SDA Districts in the state.

The SDA also makes grants available to the Regular Operating Districts for school facilities projects approved by the New Jersey Department of Education. Our professionals and contractors set the standard for design and construction management on school construction projects.

The SDA is involved in all phases of a school construction project - from acquiring land for the school to procuring furniture and equipment for the completed project.

The SDA has provided funding for and management oversight of more than 900 school facilities projects in SDA Districts and has executed more than 5,900 grants for Regular Operating Districts throughout all 21 counties in New Jersey.

SDA's current portfolio of active school projects is valued at approximately $2 billion. This includes capital projects, emergent projects, capital maintenance and emergent grants, and Regular Operating District grants.

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STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN: The SDA's Statewide Strategic Plan provides the sequencing of SDA activities that will address the significant overcrowding and aging infrastructure needs that exist in many SDA districts. This plan is based on the educational needs identified in the New Jersey Department of Education's Educational Facilities Needs Assessment (EFNA). SDA advances projects that are the result of a collaborative process with each District and the Department of Education in order to ensure that we deliver projects that best address District needs.

CAPITAL PROJECTS: The SDA Capital Program represents school facilities projects that address high educational priority needs and an advancement strategy considerate of budget, design efficiencies and construction logistics. These projects include new schools, major renovations and rehabilitation projects in the SDA Districts.

EMERGENT PROJECTS: These are projects deemed necessary in SDA Districts due to potential health and safety issues. Emergent projects fix issues like leaky, aging windows, broken boilers, replace roofs, windows, exterior masonry, heating and cooling systems, water infiltration, plumbing, electrical, mechanical and security systems.

ROD GRANTS: Grant funding is provided for projects in Regular Operating Districts that address health and safety issues and other critical needs. Grants are contingent on local approval of the remaining district share of the total costs needed.

FY22/23/24/25/26 GRANTS: The New Jersey State FY 2022, FY 2023, FY 2024, FY 2025, and FY 2026 budgets included a direct appropriation to the SDA to provide funding for projects related to emergent and capital maintenance needs.

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