



Message from CEO Charles B. McKenna

We had a busy summer at the SDA. First, we completed the work on all four Trenton Central High School swing space buildings, where school opened on time and without any disruptions whatsoever. Ground was broken on the Quarter-Mile Lane School and Buckshutem School renovation projects in Bridgeton. Steel began to rise above the Marshall Street School in Paterson as well as the Elliott and Oliver Street Schools in Newark. Steel work was completed at Elizabeth Academic High School, P.S. 20 in Jersey City and the Henry Street Elementary School in Passaic. Emergent work on P.S. 1 and P.S. 5 in West New York neared completion.

One of the SDA's recent highlights came as approximately 800 Long Branch students populated the George L. Catrambone School on the first day of school. In Late September, Governor Christie joined me in a ribbon cutting ceremony at the school where the smiles on the faces of the children were, as they say in the commercial . . . priceless. Additionally, we recently handed over the keys to the new Redshaw School, enabling approximately 900 New Brunswick students to begin their education in a new, state-of-the-art facility soon.

These projects represent the best the SDA has to offer. We are designing, renovating and constructing buildings on-time and on-budget and thousands of children will benefit from our work. But there is still much to do. SDA is diligently working with Districts across the State to address their ongoing needs. This is being done with an eye towards carrying out the Governor's mandate that every child receives a quality education in this State regardless of their zip code. I look forward to celebrating more project milestones with Districts throughout the state in the coming months.



New Facilities for a New School Year

As the 2014-2015 school year begins, students in two SDA Districts have new facilities to call home – George L. Catrambone Elementary School in Long Branch and the Trenton Central High School Small Learning Communities.

The new and highly anticipated George L. Catrambone Elementary School opened to students on Thursday, September 4. Catrambone Elementary School has the distinction of being the first new school to begin construction, as well as finish construction with a Certificate of Occupancy before opening to students, under the Christie Administration. Governor Christie joined State and local officials, Long Branch Public Schools representatives, students and community members at a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new school on September 25.



Governor Christie cuts ribbon at Catrambone School
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The new George L. Catrambone Elementary School was constructed on the site of the former Elberon Elementary School. The new school is a 109,000 square-foot, two-story facility designed to educate approximately 800 students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grades and includes 41 classrooms, four special education classrooms, a cafetorium, stage, computer room, gymnasium, media center/library, art room and music room.

As part of the new Trenton Central High School (TCHS) project, swing space is being utilized to house the student population during the demolition of the existing building and construction of the new school. The TCHS student body will occupy these new, temporary facilities for the next four years. Over the summer, SDA and Trenton Public Schools worked diligently to ensure that these facilities were transformed into schools in which the students could thrive within their respective Small Learning Communities: the Ninth Grade Academy, Communications, Visual & Performing

Arts, Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) and Hotel, Restaurant, Tourism and Business (HRTB).



SDA CEO Charles McKenna speaks with TCHS students.

Representatives from SDA and Trenton Public Schools toured the Communications and Visual & Performing Arts Small Learning Communities, located at 520 and 544 Chestnut Street respectively, on the first day of the school year. Students, excited to start the new school year, commented on the brightness and cleanliness of the new facilities and expressed their eagerness to learn within these Small Learning Communities.



SDA Representatives speak with students in music class.

Moving Forward with the Construction of New Schools

Construction of new school facilities continues to progress at a steady pace throughout the State. As of October 1, twelve new schools are in active construction. During the summer, important construction milestones were celebrated for Academic High School in Elizabeth and two projects in Bridgeton at Buckshutem Road School and Quarter Mile Lane School.



Frank J. Cicarell Academic High School "Topping Off" Ceremony

In July, SDA CEO Charles McKenna joined Elizabeth students, school district officials and local officials for a beam signing and "topping off" ceremony to highlight the progress of construction for the new Frank J. Cicarell Academic High School. Students, teachers and officials celebrated the ongoing construction of the new school by signing a steel beam, which was immediately hoisted into place topping off and completing the steel erection of the new 183,000 square-foot school. With the steel erection complete, the general contractor, Patock Construction Company, Inc., has begun work to enclose the structure. The school is anticipated for occupancy in September 2016.



Quarter Mile Lane School Groundbreaking Ceremony

SDA staff, legislators, local officials, and Bridgeton School District leaders gathered in August for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of two significant addition/renovation projects at Buckshutem Road School and Quarter Mile Lane School. The addition and renovation project to the existing Buckshutem Road School will increase the capacity of the existing school from 404 students to approximately 580 students in kindergarten through the eighth grades. The addition will include new classrooms and a gymnasium. Renovation work will include the conversion of

the existing gymnasium to a media center and the existing media center to a student services center. The addition and renovation project to the existing Quarter Mile Lane School will increase the capacity of the existing school from 254 students to approximately 730 students in pre-kindergarten through the eighth grades. The addition will include a new three-story classroom wing, new gymnasium, multi-purpose room and cafeteria. Renovation work will include the conversion of the existing cafeteria to a media center and renovations to existing classrooms.

Capital Portfolio Status Update

Forty-one projects have been designated as part of the SDA Capital Portfolio, of which more than half have advanced into construction or design activities.

- 2 projects have been completed;
- 12 projects are in active building construction, one of which – A. Chester Redshaw Elementary School – was recently turned over to the school district;
- 2 projects have initiated Design-Build activities;
- 2 projects have ongoing site work activities;
- 1 project is in Design-Build procurement;
- 8 projects are in design development; and
- 14 projects are in scope development.

In September, the SDA Board approved an amendment to the SDA's Capital Plan to add the new Leonard Place Elementary School project in Passaic City and a Preliminary Project Charter for the new school. The advancement of the Leonard Place project, which will push back the start of the Dayton Avenue project by two years, addresses the lack of swing space in the district and will therefor provide additional capacity to meet the Passaic Public Schools overcrowding issue.

For additional information on the current status of the Capital Portfolio, please click [here](#).

Maintaining Our Schools

With aging infrastructure throughout the state, school maintenance, rehabilitation and repair is essential to ensure their longevity. Through the Emergent Project Program, the SDA provides assistance to SDA Districts that have school facilities in need of repair or rehabilitation.



Officials at PS #1 Emergent Event in West New York

In August, CEO Charles McKenna joined local and district officials to tour ongoing construction work on an emergent repair project at Public School Number 1 in West New York. Officials also discussed the emergent repair project underway at Public School Number 5. Even though they had been well maintained over the years, water infiltration was a problem at both of these schools which were built in the early 1900s. The work at Public School Number 1 involved the repair of damaged and degrading masonry walls along the south elevation and the cornice of the roofline of the north elevation. The work at Public School Number 5, involved the repair of damaged and degrading masonry walls along the west elevation.

In addition to these two projects, the SDA is currently managing 15 emergent projects.

- 8 projects are in construction;
- 6 projects are in design; and
- 1 project is in design procurement.

For a status of the SDA's Emergent Project Program, please click [here](#).

Recent Project Advertisements/Awards

Since July 2014, the SDA has advertised and/or awarded contracts for the following projects:

Proposals Currently Under Review

- Elizabeth (Union County) – New Elementary School Design-Build
- Gloucester City (Gloucester County) – New Elementary School/Middle School Construction Management Services
- Newark (Essex County) – West Side High School Site Improvements

Recent Contract Awards

- Gloucester City (Gloucester County) – New Elementary School/Middle School Design/Build
- Trenton (Mercer County) – Temporary Construction Fence for Trenton Central High School project

ROD Grant Program Update

With students not in school, the summer is a prime time for School Districts to perform school improvement projects. Therefore, many school districts turned to the SDA in hopes of expediting the execution of their recently offered ROD Grant(s). Over the past few months, the SDA tirelessly worked with our District partners to execute as many of these requests as possible. Of this latest allocation of ROD Grants, 726 have been executed. This includes recent grant executions to the Bergen County Technical School District (Bergen County) which received five grants totaling \$245,160; Ogdensburg Borough School District (Sussex County) which received one grant totaling \$40,013; South Plainfield Public School (Middlesex County) which received thirteen grants totaling \$870,400; and Ventnor School District (Atlantic County) which received four grants totaling more than \$1.3 million.

From the start of the Christie Administration through September 20, 2014, the SDA has executed 1,717 grants providing more than \$530 million to local districts and leveraging projects estimated at a total of more than \$1.2 billion. A complete list of ROD Grant projects can be found on the [SDA website](#).

For more information please visit our website at www.njsda.gov or call 609.341.5900

To contact the SDA, please email the Authority at CustomerService@njsda.gov