

# SDA BIANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD OF  
APRIL 1, 2025 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2025





## ABOUT THE SDA

The New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA or the Authority) fully funds and manages the new construction, modernization and renovation of school facilities projects in 31 school districts known as SDA Districts. The Authority also makes grants available to Regular Operating Districts (RODs) throughout New Jersey for facilities projects approved by the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE).

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to deliver high-quality educational facilities that best meet the needs of the students of the State of New Jersey. While providing efficiently designed facilities that enhance the academic environment, we promote fiscal responsibility in the management of taxpayers' resources.

## EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



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Chief Executive Officer



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Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer



Ramy Kamel  
Vice President, Program and  
Construction Operations



Janice Venables  
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## LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

This report provides a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the New Jersey Schools Development Authority's (SDA) continued progress and the impact of school construction projects on students, educators, and communities throughout the State. This reporting period is defined by strong partnerships, strategic investments, and a persistent commitment to ensuring that every child in New Jersey has access to safe, modern, and innovative learning environments that foster growth and excellence.

A prominent achievement of the Authority was the opening of the Esther Salas Academy in Union City this September. This state-of-the-art facility reflects the collaborative and strong spirit that drives our mission, as well as its namesake. The Esther Salas Academy project incorporated significant community engagement and development which allowed SDA to secure \$56.8 million in federal grant funding to help offset overall project costs. At the ribbon cutting event, the laughter, learning, and collaboration of nearly 900 students allowed all present to see the mission of SDA fulfilled.

Throughout the past six months, projects in the SDA's Capital Plan continued to advance at a rapid pace. This was emphasized with a milestone groundbreaking ceremony for a new Elementary School in Garfield. In fact, by the end of September, the status of the 2022 Capital Plan projects included two deliveries, one project in construction, one project in the design-build design phase, three projects with active early site preparation engagements, several projects in the design-build procurement phase, and several other projects with ongoing bridging design activities. As the SDA ramps up construction activity on capital projects, so too will the construction community benefit from hundreds of millions in procurement opportunities.

Significant work is ongoing in hundreds of communities beyond the SDA Districts. Through the SDA's Regular Operating District (ROD) Grant Program, school districts have access to grants that leverage

local funding and will result in more than \$1 billion of school improvement projects throughout the State. At the end of the reporting period, there were more than 700 active grant projects. The majority of these projects are to remediate building critical issues such as aged and faulty boilers, building envelope repairs, and roof replacement/repairs.

The SDA's Capital Maintenance and Emergent Grant Funding continued to deliver tangible benefits to students and educators throughout this reporting period. This funding allows districts to advance the essential school building upgrades they deem most pressing so that their school buildings remain functional and conducive to learning.

These accomplishments would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the SDA staff, whose expertise and professionalism continue to elevate New Jersey's educational infrastructure. As we look ahead, we remain focused on delivering school construction projects efficiently, responsibly, and transparently.

The work of the SDA stands as a testament to what is possible when the SDA, State and local officials, school districts, and construction partners work toward a shared goal. We look forward to a continued collaborative partnership with the Administration, the Legislature, and program stakeholders as we build the foundation for brighter futures, stronger communities, and a more equitable education system for all students.



# CONTINUED PROGRESS OF STATEWIDE SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The work of the SDA is the embodiment of the belief that there is no greater investment the government can make than one that impacts its children. This reporting period is highlighted by the advancement of capital construction projects that will elevate school facilities in districts throughout the State as well as smaller projects to improve the existing educational infrastructure. Investment in modern, efficient, and inspiring learning environments, lays the groundwork for enhanced student achievement, stronger community identity, and a renewed commitment to educational equity throughout the State.

## Esther Salas Academy Offers New Beginning for Union City Students and Community



New schools signify new opportunities for students, teachers, and the community as a whole. In Union City, the new Esther Salas Academy opened this September, showcasing the numerous resources now available to students, following a significant investment in the community's educational infrastructure.

The Esther Salas Academy is an approximately 132,000 square-foot, six-story facility, funded by the SDA. The modern facility reflects the SDA's continued commitment to delivering high quality, sustainable learning environments across New Jersey school districts. The school was designed and constructed to meet USGBC LEED (United States Green Building Council – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification. The building also features a range of specialized educational spaces, including state-of-the-art STEM and robotics laboratories, a rooftop environmental science lab with an outdoor growing area, a hydroponics classroom, a media center, a dance studio, and a full gymnasium. These innovative learning areas not only support academic instruction but also promote creativity, collaboration, and hands-on learning.

In September, the SDA joined state and local officials, educators, and community members to celebrate the opening of this new facility. The ribbon cutting marked the completion of a major SDA capital project that will significantly expand educational opportunities for Union City students while alleviating persistent overcrowding in the district's schools.

During the September 15 ribbon cutting ceremony, attendees gathered to honor the Academy's namesake, Judge Esther Salas, a Union City native and the first Hispanic woman to serve as a U.S. magistrate judge in the District of New Jersey. Judge Salas delivered an emotional address to students and families, speaking about perseverance, service, and the transformative power of education. During her remarks she said, "I'm no stranger to public speaking, but I struggled to come up with the right words that could possibly explain what this means to me.... I would like to thank the people responsible for having this vision and seeing it through." She later continued, "I want to thank Governor Murphy who created the funding at a state level, which enabled news schools, like this one, to be built all across this great state. I am incredibly humbled and honored to have my name adorn this most amazing school."

While providing much-needed seats for the students of Union City, this project also highlights the advantages of strong partnerships between State, City, and school district officials. Together, officials were able to secure more than \$56 million in federal grant funding to help support the overall \$93.7 million cost of the project. The SDA was the subrecipient of a Federal Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF) grant, passed through the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. To ensure grant eligibility, the Union City School District partnered with the SDA by committing to



provide programming at the school that will enable work, education, and health monitoring for the community.

## SDA Breaks Ground on a New Elementary School in Garfield



Marking the advancement of another school project from the SDA's 2022 Capital Plan, the SDA joined officials from the Garfield School District, State and local leaders in August to commemorate the

ceremonial groundbreaking of a new elementary school to replace the former Woodrow Wilson School No. 5 on its existing site.

Once complete, the new school will be an approximately 132,000 square-foot, four-story facility designed to educate a maximum of 850 students in grades kindergarten through five. In addition to general and kindergarten classrooms, the school will include a vocal music room, an instrumental lesson room, an art room with a kiln, a STEAM lab, a media center, a cafeteria, a multi-purpose room, and a gymnasium. These spaces will allow young students to be inspired, spark creativity, and build a foundation for a lifetime of learning.

With a total state-investment of approximately \$87.6 million, this project will relieve significant capacity issues across the district while creating hundreds of construction jobs and supporting community growth.

*We remain gratified by the opportunity to build schools that you, your parents, teachers, and community will be proud of when you walk through the doors of this new school in September 2027. Thank you, and let's build something great together!*

*SDA CEO, Manuel Da Silva*

## Early Site Preparation Activities

The SDA routinely employs early site preparation engagements for school construction projects. This method of separating demolition and site remediation from new school construction is highly effective in preventing lengthy, costly construction delays often caused by conditions that need to be remedied on the site. Separating the Early Site Preparation contract from the Design-Build contract also provides opportunities for smaller firms to gain experience working directly for the SDA.

During this reporting period, early site preparation activities advanced for several projects in the SDA's



Capital Plan. In Camden, the school district is working with the Camden County Improvement Authority (CCIA) to demolish the existing Eastside High School. This work will allow the SDA to advance a design-build procurement in 2026 to construct a new Eastside High School facility. SDA representatives were invited to attend a demolition event held by the school district in July to acknowledge the history of the former facility and look ahead to the opportunities that a new school will provide. At the event, school district representatives also unveiled a time capsule from 1929.



In West New York, early site preparation activities commenced during the summer months. The smoke pipe factory that formerly stood on the site, known as the Warminster Building, was previously demolished by the SDA a number of years earlier. The current early site preparation activities include demolition and removal of the remaining foundations and associated site conditions. The demolition and site preparation will allow the SDA to advance a new middle school project on the site.



The Decatur Avenue Elementary School, built in the early 1920s, has stood vacant for several years, unsuitable for educational use. In September, the SDA initiated asbestos abatement activities of the original school to allow for building demolition later in the fall. The SDA will construct a new elementary school on the same site that will educate more than 600 students in grades prekindergarten to five.



Early Site Preparation Activities Ongoing at the End of the Reporting Period		
School District	Project Name	Description
Camden	Eastside High School	Demolition of the existing Eastside H.S. by Camden School District and CCIA
Pleasantville	New Elementary School	Abatement of the former Decatur Avenue E.S.
West New York	New Middle School	Foundation removal at Warminster Building Site

## Status of 2022 Capital Projects

The SDA’s Capital Plan is an important investment in the education of New Jersey students. The advancement of projects in the Capital Plan requires significant planning, design, and site preparation prior to the construction of new school facilities. During this reporting period, considerable development continued for many of the project needs identified in the 2022 Capital Plan. Among the most significant accomplishments during this reporting period was the commencement of building construction activities for the new elementary school in Garfield, design-phase services for the new school in Elizabeth, as well as demolition activities for two projects – a new elementary school in



Pleasantville and a middle school in West New York. The SDA also advanced procurement activities for design-build contracts for projects in Bridgeton, Paterson, Pleasantville, Trenton and West New York.

The status of the projects currently approved in the SDA's Capital Plan is listed below:

- two are complete,
- one is in construction,
- one is in the design-build design phase,
- seven have active early site preparation activities and/or bridging design ongoing, and
- two more have approved preliminary or planning project charters.

The remaining projects either are in the planning and scope validation stage with school districts or are projects that are phased to begin upon the completion of other projects in a district (this is due to swing space needs).

Status of 2022 Capital Plan Projects						
District	Project	Grades	Max Capacity	Total Est. Costs (millions)	Delivery Method	Advancement Status
Bridgeton	Grades 6-8	6-8	TBD	TBD	Design-build	Project to be phased with the advancement of the H.S. add/reno project.
Bridgeton	Grades PK, 6-8	PK, 6-8	TBD	TBD	Design-build	Project to be phased with the advancement of the H.S. add/reno project.
Bridgeton	High School Addition/Renovation	9-12	384	\$49.2	Design-build	Design-build contract advertised in May 2025.
Camden	New High School (Eastside HS Replacement)	9-12	941	\$115.1	Design-build	Planning charter approved Feb. 2024 Board. Early site preparation ongoing by District and CCIA.
Elizabeth	New Elementary School (Battin Replacement)	PK-8	1,068	\$96.2	Design-build	Design-build contract awarded August 2025. Early site preparation complete. Design phase ongoing.
Garfield	New Elementary School (No. 5 Replacement)	PK-5	852	\$80.2	Design-build	Early site preparation complete. In construction.
Garfield	Grades PK-5	K-5	TBD	TBD	Design-build	Project to be phased with advancement of new E.S. project.
Jersey City	Grade PK	PK	TBD	TBD	Design-build	DOE/District/SDA working group meetings ongoing
New Brunswick	Pathways M.S. & PTech Academy	6-8, 9-12	859	\$42.0	Alternative Delivery	Complete.
New Brunswick	Middle School addition	6-8	TBD	TBD	Design-build	DOE/District/SDA working group meetings ongoing
Newark	Nelson Mandela Elementary School	PK-8	376	\$20.5	Alternative Delivery	Complete.

Newark	New High School (University HS Replacement)	9-12	1,082	\$129.2	Design-build	Planning charter approved Feb. 2024 Board. In bridging design services.
Passaic City	Grades 9-12	9-12	2,823	\$328.1	Design-build	Planning charter approved Feb. 2024 Board.
Paterson	New STEAM & STARS High School	9-12	1,532	\$160.3	Design-build	A design-build advertisement was issued in August 2025.
Perth Amboy	Grades K-5	K-5	TBD	TBD	Design-build	DOE/District/SDA working group meetings ongoing
Pleasantville	New Decatur Ave Elementary School	PK-5	658	\$65.8	Design-build	Early Site Preparation ongoing. A design-build advertisement was issued in August 2025.
Salem City	Grades PK-8	PK-8	TBD	TBD	Design-build	DOE/District/SDA working group meetings ongoing
Trenton	New Elementary School at Dunn Middle School	K-6	837	\$83.8	Design-build	A design-build contract award approved in September 2025.
Union City	Grade 7-9 School (former Mother Seton School)	7-9	400	\$4.0	Alternative Delivery	Funding agreement memoranda approved in December 2024.
West New York	Middle School	6-8	876	\$110.1	Design-build	Early site preparation ongoing. A design-build advertisement was issued in June 2025.

Notes:

PLEASE NOTE – Dates in the past are actual. Estimated costs, grade alignment and capacity are based upon approved project charters, where applicable. For projects without an approved charter, estimated costs, grade alignment and capacity are based upon planning assumptions.

## Design Services Bring Projects Closer to Construction

Significant planning and design work is required prior to advancement of a design-build contract procurement that is needed to enable construction of a new school facility. The SDA's in-house Design Studio, comprised of dedicated architects and engineers, works to advance the development of bridging design documents that allow for advancement of projects through a design-build project delivery approach. This can include development of project-specific performance specifications, based on SDA Materials and Systems Standards, as well as development of additional drawings that define the project in sufficient detail for procurement of design-build services.



To support this effort, the SDA engages outside bridging design consultants. The SDA utilizes a pool of Bridging Design Consultants to permit expedited assignment and award of Task Orders for Bridging

Design Consultant services on school facility projects that are advanced under a Design-Build methodology. In September, the SDA issued a procurement opportunity to establish a new Bridging Design Consultant Services Pool term.

Throughout the reporting period, the SDA Design Studio advanced bridging design documents through outside design consultants for the following projects:

- New High School in Bridgeton
- New Eastside High School in Camden
- New University High School in Newark
- New Elementary School in Pleasantville
- New STEAM High School in Paterson
- New Elementary School in Trenton
- New Middle School in West New York

## Emergent Program

The SDA's Emergent Project Program provides funding for important repair work at SDA District schools throughout the state so students can learn in facilities that are safe, healthy, and free from building conditions that interfere with learning.

Through the Emergent Project Program, the SDA addresses conditions deemed necessary by the DOE due to potential health and safety concerns. Emergent projects address conditions such as water infiltration and include the repair or replacement of roofs, windows, exterior masonry, heating and cooling systems, plumbing, electrical, mechanical and security systems.

The SDA now primarily funds this type of work through Capital Maintenance and Emergent Grant Funding, which will be detailed later in this report. As a result, at the end of the reporting period, the SDA was not actively managing any emergent projects. During the reporting period, however, two SDA-managed emergent projects were completed. These projects totaled more than \$6 million in emergent repairs.

SDA-Managed Emergent Projects Completed During the Reporting Period		
School District	School Name	Description
East Orange	Fresh Start Academy	Water Infiltration, Roof, Masonry
Newark	Technology High School	Structural vault repairs/ Façade repairs



SDA funding also supported four emergent projects previously delegated for management by the local school district, which total \$15.6 million. In these cases, the SDA executed a grant agreement with the local school district and then the district acquired responsibility for procurement and management of the project. SDA does maintain oversight in these instances. At the end of the reporting period these projects were in construction.

District-Managed Emergent Projects			
District	School Name	Project Scope	Status
Burlington	Captain James Lawrence	Window and flooring replacement	Construction
Gloucester City	Gloucester City H.S.	Water infiltration, roof, masonry	Construction
Millville	Holly Heights E.S.	HVAC renovations	Construction
New Brunswick	Pathway M.S./ PTech Academy	HVAC repairs	Construction

## ROD Grant Program

The SDA's ROD Grant Program elevates school facilities in hundreds of districts throughout the state through funding that helps to improve and extend the lifecycle of school buildings. The state-grant program funds at least 40 percent of eligible costs for projects in the RODs. The state's significant investment in the betterment of its educational infrastructure through this program impacts hundreds of local communities around the state by helping districts leverage local resources to pay for important school facility projects while continuing to bolster the State's construction industry.

The most recent allocation of the ROD Grant program primarily focused funding toward projects that address health and safety issues, upgrade building systems, repair exterior building skin and other critical needs. During the reporting period, the SDA executed 81 grants in 28 school districts. These grants will allow projects totaling more than \$59.4 million in state share and \$145.9 million in overall costs to proceed in RODs throughout the State.

The new grant executions are part of the SDA's active portfolio of 702 grant projects in over 250 school districts throughout the State (inclusive of recent grant offers and executions). At the end of the reporting period, these active projects totaled approximately \$448 million in state share, generating a total investment of more than \$1.03 billion in project costs when combined with the local share.

During the reporting period, the SDA completed 189 milestone disbursement payments for ROD Grant projects totaling over \$19.1 million, which included the close-out of thirty-one projects impacting twenty-five school districts.

## Fiscal Year Emergent and Capital Maintenance Grant Funding

The New Jersey State Fiscal Year 2026 Budget once again included a direct appropriation to the SDA, dedicating funding for projects related to emergent and capital maintenance needs. In Fiscal Year 2026, the Budget and Appropriations Act allocated \$50 million to benefit all 31 SDA Districts. An NJDOE formula is used to determine funding amounts allocated to each of the 31 SDA school districts. The complete list of all districts and their allocations is available [here](#).

This funding allows districts to direct funding to their most pressing school facility issues. The majority of projects funded by this grant program routinely address HVAC, building envelope, site, plumbing, security and mechanical work in New Jersey's SDA District public schools.

In order for school districts to receive their funding allocation, they are required to provide the SDA with a duly-executed certification that lists an eligible emergent and/or capital maintenance project(s). The Fiscal Year 2026 allocation amounts for each district had not been announced as of the end of the reporting period and therefore Districts were not yet able to request this funding.

At the end of the reporting period, the SDA had disbursed the following amounts from the prior grant funding allocations:

<b>Capital Maintenance and Emergent Funding</b> (Distributions through 9/30/2025)			
	<b>Amount Available</b>	<b>Number of Districts Funded</b>	<b>Amount Distributed</b>
Fiscal Year 2022	\$75 Million	558	\$74,317,268
Fiscal Year 2023	\$75 Million	528	\$72,849,754
Fiscal Year 2024	\$75 Million	462	\$71,054,605
Fiscal Year 2025	\$50 Million	31	\$50,000,000

During the reporting period, the SDA disbursed 26 payments for Capital Maintenance and Emergent Grants totaling over \$6.3 million.

# Metropolitan Statistical Comparison

The Authority’s 2007 enabling legislation requires that twice per year the SDA management provide the Legislature a comparison of the SDA’s capital project per square foot costs with those of projects constructed in the New York City and Philadelphia Metropolitan Statistical Comparison areas (MSA). This effort helps ensure that the SDA’s construction costs are reasonable when compared to school construction costs in geographic areas with comparable building and economic conditions.

The data for the New York MSA is inclusive of New York City and its surrounding suburban counties including those located north and east of the city. The data also includes reported costs for facilities in counties in central and northern New Jersey.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Totals				
Cost Per Square Foot Comparison at Bid				
Statistical Brief				
Source	Area	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
<b>Dodge Data &amp; Analytics</b> <i>(Formerly McGraw-Hill)</i> <b>Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)</b> (Reports Dated July 2025 – September 2025)	Philadelphia	\$464	\$621	-
	New York	\$594	\$1,071	\$926
<b>New York City School Construction Authority^</b> (Preliminary Fiscal 2025 Mayor’s Management Report)	New York City	\$870		
<b>SDA Managed Projects*</b> (April 2025 – September 2025)	Statewide NJ	\$474	\$510	-

*The table represents a statistical cross-section of data from numerous sources with report dates in 2025. Costs are at time of bid.*

*^Numbers reflect the New York City Preliminary Fiscal 2025 Mayor’s Management Report reported for Fiscal Year 2025. Construction bid price for school capacity projects per square foot.*

*\*Cost at Bid for three SDA District Projects (Elizabeth - New Elementary School (Battin Replacement), Trenton - New Elementary School (Dunn Middle School Site) and West New York - New Middle School). Construction costs do not include costs for site construction. (For projects advanced via Design-Build Engagements, design fees included in the bid amount have been deducted to calculate the Construction Cost Per Square Foot).*



## School Facilities Projects Approved by DOE

From April 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025, the NJDOE issued approvals for 217 school facilities projects in RODs. None of these projects exceeded the Facilities Efficiency Standards (FES)<sup>1</sup>.

The information included in the table below was provided by the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of School Facilities.

School Facilities Projects Approved by DOE				
April 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025				
	Total School Facilities Projects Approved	Required Educational Adequacy/FES Review	Projects Requiring Educational Adequacy/RES Review & Exceeding the FES*	% of Projects Requiring Educational Adequacy/FES Review and Exceeding the FES
All Districts	93	20	0	0
SDA Districts	3	3	0	0
RODs	90	17	0	0

The NJDOE approved 50 “Other Capital” projects for SDA Districts. Since these are outside of the SDA-managed funding process, they are not reflected in the table above. The NJDOE approved 127 “Other Capital” projects for RODs. These projects are also not reflected in the table above. An “Other Capital” project is a project that is either not eligible or not seeking State funding support.

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<sup>1</sup> “Facilities efficiency standards” means the standards developed by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to subsection h. of section 4 of the Educational Facilities and Construction Financing Act. The facilities efficiency standards developed by the commissioner shall not be construction design standards but rather shall represent the instructional spaces, specialized instructional areas, and administrative spaces that are determined by the commissioner to be educationally adequate to support the achievement of the core curriculum content standards including the provision of required programs in Abbott districts and early childhood education programs in the districts in which these programs are required by the State

# SUPPORTING NEW JERSEY'S CONSTRUCTION ECONOMY

## Small Business Goals

The SDA is committed to ensuring that at least 25 percent of the total dollar value of all publicly advertised contracts it awards during a fiscal year go to small business enterprises (SBE). As such, the SDA requires consultants and prime contractors to make good-faith efforts to identify and hire available small business enterprise sub-consultants and sub-contractors and to award at least 25 percent of the total contract value to them. In instances where the prime contractor is an SBE itself, the prime would count toward the 25 percent goal.

SDA prime contract award activity during this reporting period included the award of two design contracts (Camden and Newark), one design phase of a design-build contract (Elizabeth), one construction management contract (Garfield), two demolition/early site preparation contracts (West New York and Pleasantville), and one general contractor task order (Keansburg). These contracts totaled \$15,015,220, with 24.3 percent of the total dollar value awarded going to primes with SBE classifications at the time of award.

Historically, SDA contract engagements achieve or exceed the 25 percent goal over the course of the entirety of the engagements as awarded jobs are fully subcontracted or “bought out.” The design-build project included in the total above is currently in the design phase of the design-build contract. SBE participation routinely increases as primes continue to hire subcontractors and subconsultants with SBE certifications throughout the lifecycle of their SDA projects. On the Esther Salas Academy project in Union City, which opened to students in September, vendors (consultants and contractors) with SBE classifications obtained a total of 36.14% of the total contract amounts awarded.

During the reporting period, prime contractors/consultants, subcontractors, and sub-consultants with SBE classifications received \$9,071,411 in contract dollars (*Note: This includes contract dollars received during the reporting period by subcontractors associated with SDA prime contracts issued prior to October 1, 2025*).

The SDA also compiles information on the number of school construction contracts awarded by the SDA to women, minority, veteran, and disabled veteran-owned contractors. This reporting period,

women-owned businesses received \$2,525,000 in contract dollars. There were no awards to minority-owned business or veteran or disabled veteran-owned businesses during the reporting period.

## Minority/Female Workforce Hours

Through payroll certification, SDA tracks the number of work hours by trade, broken down by minority and female workers. The chart below exhibits the number of work hours on active construction sites and the percentage breakdown by women and minorities. During this reporting period, the SDA logged more than 74,000 work-hours across all trades. These numbers represent the work hours of 939 employees, inclusive of 299 minority employees and 12 female employees. Of the total work-hours across all trades, the minority and female workforce performed more than 35 percent of all work-hours.

Number of Minority/Female Work-Hours by Trade (April 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025)					
Trade	Total Work-Hours	Minority Work-Hours	Minority Work-Hours Percentage	Female Work-Hours	Female Work-Hours Percentage
Asbestos & Hazardous Waste Removal	240	160	66.67%	80	33.33%
Bricklayer, Stone Mason	2,991	1,014	33.9%	0	0%
Carpenter	16,801	7,317	43.55%	464	2.78%
Electrician	23,907	8,844	37%	0	0%
Elevator Constructor	446	76	17.04%	0	0%
Glazier	1,660	0	0%	0	0%
Heat and Frost Insulator	5,028	462	9.19%	178	3.54%
Iron Worker	800	540	67.5%	32	4%
Laborer	8,878	4,352	49.02%	430	4.84%
Operating Engineer	1,874	20	1.07%	0	0%
Painter	452	268	59.29%	0	0%
Pipefitter	1,863	0	0%	0	0%
Plasterer	64	16	25%	0	0%
Plumber	3,782	706	18.67%	0	0%
Roofer	609	240	39.41%	0	0%
Sheet Metal Worker	4,645	752	16.19%	0	0%
Sprinkler Fitter	320	200	16.19%	0	0%
Truck Driver	7	0	0%	0	0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>74,367</b>	<b>24,967</b>	<b>33.58%</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>1.59%</b>



## Supporting Construction Jobs

The investment in safe, modern, and dependable school facilities has the ability to serve as building blocks that will help students achieve academic success while contributing to the state's construction industry. As such, New Jersey's school construction program provides benefits for both students and construction workers. While new schools strengthen educational opportunities for generations of students, construction projects also generate thousands of jobs for the skilled trades.

For the one capital project (the new Garfield Woodrow Wilson School No. 5 replacement) in construction at the end of the reporting period, as well as the ongoing SDA-funded demolition activities for two capital projects (West New York Middle School and Pleasantville Decatur Avenue School), the more than \$74 million investment in active construction/demolition contracts represent the creation and/or support of more than 640 job-years throughout the project lifecycles.

In addition, the 702 active ROD Grants ongoing throughout the state, with total project costs of more than \$1 billion, represent more than 8,600 job-years for the construction workforce throughout the lifecycle of those projects.

A thriving construction industry is essential for economic growth and community development, as it lays the foundation for infrastructure, creates jobs, and drives innovation. New Jersey's construction workforce lays the foundation for a strong education infrastructure that supports the state's high-quality education system. As additional SDA capital construction projects advance, the school construction program is poised to exponentially impact the State's construction workforce in the coming years.

# SDA FINANCES

Since the inception of the State’s construction program, the New Jersey State Legislature has authorized a total of \$14.875 billion in bond and appropriations funding for SDA projects (\$10.85 billion for SDA Districts, and \$4.025 billion for RODs and vocational schools). Since the program’s inception through the end of the reporting period (March 31, 2025), the amount of bonds issued to fund the school construction program is approximately \$11.85 billion. No bonds were issued during the reporting period, and no new bond issuances are expected in the foreseeable future due to recent funding in the amount of \$2.425 billion allocated to the Authority through various annual budget and appropriations bills. As of September 30, 2025, the SDA had approximately \$552.5 million in cash on hand, having disbursed over \$74.0 million during the reporting period (April 1-September 30, 2025).

The Authority’s most recent annual financial statements, audited by PKF O’Connor Davies, can be found on the SDA’s website at:

<https://www.njsda.gov/Public/AnnualAndOtherReports>.

The SDA remains a steadfast guardian of taxpayer funds and, as such, when necessary, the SDA pursues opportunities to recover funds to ensure fiscal responsibility. At times, the Office of Chief Counsel works to recover funds from responsible parties for the costs of environmental remediation of project sites. During the reporting period, the SDA recovered a total of \$3,778,757.04 of costs it incurred to remediate environmental conditions on real properties it acquired through eminent domain in connection with the Trenton Roebling School (\$3,445,441.40), West New York No. 3 (\$224,877.47), Paterson International High School (\$63,971.83), Jersey City ECC 13 (\$38,754.97) and Camden Lanning Square Elementary School (\$5,711.37) projects.

# STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

The Authority welcomes opportunities to interact with program stakeholders across diverse settings to answer inquiries about the school construction program, engage and collaborate with the contracting community, and gather feedback from the communities we serve. During this reporting period, the SDA continued these efforts, with an eye toward engagement and transparency.

In May, Vice President Ramy Kamel presented at the American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey to share the status of the SDA's Capital Program, currently in various stages of development, such as planning, design, environmental services, and construction. Participants had an opportunity to learn about SDA's procurement pipeline and the prequalification process.

Chief Executive Officer, Manuel Da Silva, also spoke at a meeting of Great Schools New Jersey in May. This is an association of high needs school districts, many of which are the 31 SDA Districts that the SDA is responsible for 100% funding of school construction projects. This event allowed Mr. Da Silva to detail the process for which projects are selected for advancement, when funding is available. By speaking to this group of administrators, SDA can tailor specific details of the SDA projects that are relevant to these districts.

This summer, SDA representatives participated in the NJ Pathways Business Forum, hosted by the New Jersey Department of Treasury. This event provided a unique opportunity for matchmaking sessions with small businesses to provide information on the program overall and offer targeted prequalification support.

