

Governor Christie Announces \$133 Million New Camden High School Project

• Wednesday, October 5, 2016



Trenton, NJ – As part of his ongoing commitment to the City of Camden and its residents, Governor Chris Christie today joined Camden Mayor Dana L. Redd, Camden Public Schools Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard, and state and local representatives to announce a \$133 million investment for a new Camden High School.

“This historic investment will create a safe, attractive learning environment, along with limitless opportunities for generations of Camden High School students who have been forced to endure and thrive in deteriorating conditions,” Governor Christie said. “It is emblematic of my position that no child in this state is worth more than another, that all children deserve a quality education, regardless of ZIP code. This new, state-of-the-art school will honor the proud tradition of the Castle on the Hill, enrich our society and improve the lives of students and those around them.”

The new Camden High School is planned to be approximately 242,000 square feet, to accommodate students in grades nine to twelve. The school project is expected to advance in two phases: The first will include the demolition of current high school and site preparation, and the second will include the design and construction of the new facility. The new school is preliminarily anticipated to be ready for student occupancy in 2021.

In 2014, the Governor announced a major rehabilitation and renovation project for Camden High. However, after predesign services were performed, it was determined that a complete renovation project would not be cost effective. Further, it was determined that a new facility would fully address the programmatic needs necessary to guarantee a 21st Century education for the students of Camden High School. Therefore, today, the NJ Schools Development Authority’s Board of Directors approved a preliminary project charter allocating \$133 million for a new Camden High School that will fully address the needs of Camden students.

“Words cannot begin to express the joy in my heart that our students will finally have a state-of-the-art high school they deserve,” said Mayor Redd. “Governor Christie has gone above and beyond his commitment to our youth by making funds available to construct a new Camden High School that will definitely be the crown jewel of our great City. Camden’s progress has been a team effort and today’s announcement further demonstrates that together we can build not only a new school, but a stronger future for our children and families.”

“I’m excited today on behalf of the thousands of Camden students who will be able to go to school in this state-of-the-art building,” said Superintendent Rouhanifard. “For too long, the poor quality of the Camden High School building has not matched the High’s illustrious history. This announcement is a significant step forward in our efforts to prepare our children for successful futures, and I’m grateful for the leadership of Mayor Redd, Board President Wilson, Camden High alumni, and community leaders across the City in advancing the project to this point.”

Through the efficient and responsible school construction program implemented under this Administration, the SDA will construct this new school in a way that not only ensures the efficient use of taxpayer dollars, but also utilizes design standards and construction practices that encourage quality and durability. The school will be built using a design-build approach which allows SDA to contract with one firm for both design and construction of a school facilities project.

To date, the SDA has invested more than \$261 million in completed projects in Camden, including five new schools and 58 Health and Safety/Grants/Emergent Projects. 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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