



NJDOE News

**For More Information Contact the Public Information Office:
Tom Rosenthal
Rich Vespucci
609-292-1126**

For Release: June 26, 2002

Department of Education Grants Preliminary Approval for Construction Project in Pittsgrove Township

The Department of Education today announced preliminary approval of a project to remove and replace valance and stage curtains at Arthur P. Schalick High School in Pittsgrove, Salem County.

The school district had submitted an application that calls for replacing the valance and stage curtains with those that are flame resistant. The project carries a total estimated cost of \$28,250.

In granting preliminary approval to the project, the Department of Education has determined that the plans are consistent with education laws and regulations governing school facilities. The Department of Education has advised local school officials of several administrative steps they must follow to complete the application process. The district must:

- Confirm in writing that it has elected to construct the projects as described in the application
- Choose whether it wishes to be reimbursed for some of the project cost by the state through a state grant or through state aid (debt service aid)
- Decide not to appeal the state's determination of the preliminary eligible project costs.

After receiving the district's response, the Department of Education will notify the district of the final costs eligible for state funding.

The Department of Education has determined the preliminary cost eligible for funding for the Pittsgrove Township project to be \$28,250. The state's share of this project would equal \$16,796, or 59.5 percent, of this amount. If the district elects to have the state Economic Development Authority construct the project, state support will be in the form of a grant.

State regulations require that before construction can begin, all school facilities projects have local support. For most districts, such support comes from an approved voter referendum.

State funding of this project comes from an \$8.6 billion appropriated under the landmark Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act. The law was enacted to make unprecedented amounts of state funds available to help meet a critical need for new, safe and updated schools throughout New Jersey.

www.state.nj.us/education