



Lakewood Board of Education

200 Ramsey Avenue, Lakewood, NJ 08701

Main Office: (732) 364-2400 Fax: (732) 905-3687

Laura A. Winters, Superintendent of Schools

Kevin Campbell, Interim Business Administrator

February 15, 2018

Acting Commissioner Dr. Lamont Repollet
New Jersey Department of Education
100 River View Plaza
PO Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625

RE: Lakewood School District's Request to Receive Additional Special Education Categorical Aid

Dear Dr. Repollet,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I also hope that you have received my letter dated February 5, 2018 requesting a meeting in the hopes that you can assist me in helping the students of the Lakewood Public Schools. It is my steadfast goal to ensure that all students receive a thorough and efficient education, without having to experience the devastating effects of millions of dollars in cuts, Reduction-in-Force Letters and the resignation of almost one hundred staff members, as we have experienced in the past. For your convenience, I have attached an additional copy of my February 5, 2018 letter.

At this time, I would like to request consideration for **additional special education categorical aid as per NJSA 18A:7F-55b**, as the Lakewood School District has an unusually high rate of disabilities, such as Autism, Cognitive Impairments, and Medically Fragile students, to which special education aid and extraordinary aid do not satisfactorily support the necessary related expenditures. This request was discussed with our State Monitor.

As you can see in the charts below, the high cost of Special Education on the Lakewood School District.



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Special Education Costs:

	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budgeted
Special Education Instruction	\$ 6,632,902	\$ 7,093,600
Out of District Tuition	\$ 29,987,177	\$ 32,945,778
Related Services	\$ 3,436,014	\$ 3,963,056
Extraordinary Services	\$ 2,266,010	\$ 3,052,431
Child Study Team	\$ 3,214,675	\$ 2,850,665
	\$ 40,639,222	\$ 49,905,530
Categorical Special Education Aid	\$ (3,053,082)	\$ (3,155,515)
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$ (625,295)	\$ (820,831)
Extraordinary Aid	\$ (4,542,906)	\$ (5,200,000)
District Cost	\$ 37,313,395	\$ 40,729,184

Special Education Mandated Busing Cost 2017-18:

Projected 2017-18 Cost	\$ 3,564,626
Less State Aid	\$ (748,449)
Net Cost	\$ 2,816,177
District Cost/Sp Ed Students	\$ 3,858

I would also very much like to schedule a meeting at your earliest convenience, with the Board President and General Counsel to discuss this matter further.

Lastly, for your convenience, I again forward two recent expert reports regarding the State Funding Formula, and Special Education in Lakewood that I would like to discuss.

Also attached is a preliminary budget presentation for the 2018-2019 school year.

I can be contacted at 732-905-3633 or via email at lwinters@lakewoodpiners.org.

I look forward to working with you.



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Respectfully,

Laura A. Winters

Laura A. Winters
Superintendent of Schools

cc:

The Honorable Phil Murphy
The Honorable Senator Singer
Moshe Bender, Board President
Members of the Board of Education
General Counsel Michael I. Inzelbuch, Esquire
Michael Azzara, Lead State Monitor
David Shafter, State Monitor
Kevin Campbell, Interim Business Administrator
Robert Finger, Interim Assistant Business Administrator

Enclosures:

Expert Report – Sue Gamm
Expert Report – Mel Wynns
Resume – Sue Gamm
Resume – Mel Wynns
Preliminary Budget Report – by Assistant Business Administrator Robert
Letter Requesting a Meeting, dated February 5, 2018.