



President Moshe Bender and Honored Board Members:

The Igud HaMosdos, representing 120 non-public schools in Lakewood, along with their 30,000-plus students, stand firmly behind the Board's efforts to secure proper funding to allow all of Lakewood's children the quality education they are entitled to and deserve.

Specifically, public school children should receive a robust "thorough and efficient education" and all of Lakewood's children should be provided with safe transportation to their schools. Students with special needs, an especially vulnerable and at-risk population, should be treated with compassion and dignity and certainly receive a **free appropriate public education (FAPE) as proscribed by** the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

We call on the State of New Jersey to live up to its legal and ethical responsibility to step in now and provide adequate funding for all of Lakewood's children recognizing the distinctive demographics and profile of this very unique school district.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Simon Balsam