

A

September 25, 2018 07:43 AM

State of New Jersey  
Government Records Request  
Receipt

Page: 1 of 2

Requestor Information

Michael I Inzelbuch

1340 west county line road  
Lakewood, NJ 08701

michael@inzelbuchlaw.com  
732-906-0325

Request Date: September 16, 2018

Maximum Authorized Cost: \$1,500.00

Email

Request Number: W136839

Request Status: Filled/Closed

Ready Date:

Custodian Contact Information

Chief of Staff

Records Custodian

100 River View Plaza

P.O. Box 500

Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

OPRA.CUSTODIAN@doen.nj.gov

609-376-9081

By:

Status of Your Request

Your request for government records (# W136839) from the Chief of Staff has been reviewed and has been Filled Closed. Detailed information as to the availability of the documents you requested appear below and on following pages as necessary.

The cost and any balance due for this request is shown to the right. Any balance due must be paid in full prior to the release / mailing of the documents.

If you have any questions related to the disposition of this request please contact the Custodian of Records for the Chief of Staff. The contact information is in the column to the right. Please reference your request number in any contact or correspondence.

Cost Information

Total Cost \$0.00

Deposit \$0.00

Total Amount Paid \$0.00

Balance Due \$0.00

Document Detail

Div	Doc #	Doc Name	Redaction Req	Pages	Legal Size	Electronic Media	Other Cost
COS	001 1.	Any and all recommendations of the Commissioner of Education to the State Treasurer with regard to any and all advances of State aid made to the Lakewood New Jersey school district since 2016	Y		N	Y	
		Responsive records emailed to requestor. Material that is advisory, consultative, and deliberative in nature is exempt from disclosure pursuant to NJSA 47:1A-1.1 and has been redacted.  					
COS	002 2.	Any and all responses from the State Treasurer and/or his designee	N		N	Y	

A

September 25, 2018 07:43 AM

State of New Jersey  
Government Records Request

Page: 2 of 2

Receipt

	Responsive records emailed to requestor.
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9/25/18: Responsive records emailed to requestor. Material that is advisory, consultative, and deliberative in nature is exempt from disclosure pursuant to NJSA 47:1A-1.1 and has been redacted.

9/16/18: Received.

Your request for government records (# W136839) is as follows:

With regard to any and all advances of State aid made to the Lakewood New Jersey school district since 2015 please provide 1- Any and all recommendations of the Commissioner of Education and/or his designee pursuant to NJSA 18A:7A-56 and/or any other statute to the State Treasurer 2- Any and all responses from the State Treasurer and/or his designee

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**From:** OPRA Custodian <opra.custodian@doe.nj.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018 7:44 AM  
**To:** Michael Inzelbuch  
**Subject:** NJDOE OPRA Request W136839  
**Attachments:** State Advance Lakewood\_2015 redacted.pdf; State Advance Lakewood\_2016.pdf; State Advance Lakewood\_2018.pdf; Filled and Closed 9-25-18 GeneratedReport.pdf

Mr. Inzelbuch,

Attached please find records responsive to your request. Material that is advisory, consultative, and deliberative in nature is exempt from disclosure pursuant to NJSA 47:1A-1.1 and has been redacted. A receipt indicating same, and that your request has been filled and closed, is attached.

Jennifer Simons  
Records Custodian  
Office of Legal Affairs  
Department of Education

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** The information contained in this communication from the New Jersey Department of Education is privileged and confidential and is intended for the sole use of the persons or entities who are the addressees. If you are not an intended recipient of this email, the dissemination, distribution, copying or use of the information it contains is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately contact the New Jersey Department of Education at (609) 376-3500 to arrange for the return of this information.

Entitled

" State Advice  
Lakewood - 2015  
redacted. pdf "

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State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO Box 500  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor  
KIM GUADAGNO  
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE  
Commissioner

May 4, 2015

TO: Andrew P. Sidamon-Eristoff  
State Treasurer

FROM: David C. Hespe  
Commissioner

SUBJECT: State Aid Advance for Lakewood School District Under the *School District Fiscal Accountability Act*

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-56, I am writing you to recommend the advance of \$4,000,000 in state aid from the School District Deficit Relief account (15-100-034-5120-489) to the Lakewood School District. The Department finds that this advance payment is necessary to ensure the provision of a thorough and efficient education.



Mr. Michael Azzara has served as state monitor in the Lakewood School District since April 2014, along with Mr. David Shafter and Mrs. Theresa Pollifrone-Sinatra who have been serving as assistant state monitors since September 2014 and February 2015, respectively. They continue to work with the district on the following:

- Meet with administration and Board of Education to develop an understanding of the issues and causes of the deficit situation;
- Review all expenditures of the district;
- Review grant funding and expenditures to ensure funds will be expended prior to the end of the grant period in accordance with the terms of the grant; and
- Review the corrective action plan and audit recommendations for fiscal year 2014-2015.

In addition, as part of the ongoing work as state monitor and assistant state monitors, all purchase orders are being reviewed prior to issuance and they are restricting any unnecessary purchases and reviewing and approving monthly bill lists.

Due to the amount of the advance and its impact on local taxpayers, I recommend a ten-year term for repayment. In anticipation of this loan, the district is including the first year's repayment of \$400,000 in its 2015-2016 budget. Upon approval and issuance of the advance, this repayment will be effectuated by the Department through automatic deductions in the state

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Andrew P. Sidamon-Eristoff  
May 4, 2015  
Page 2

aid provided to the school district. At this time, there is no recommendation for the assessment of interest. We can discuss this further and may determine to impose interest on the unpaid balance in the future pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-56(b).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Glenn Forney, director, Office of State Monitors at (609) 943-4115.

DCH/TM/GF/tch

c: William Haldeman  
Timothy Matheny  
Kevin Dehmer  
Yut'se Thomas  
Glenn Forney  
David Joye  
Cindy Lee  
Charlene Holzbaur

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State of New Jersey  
OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER  
PO Box 002  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0002

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO  
Lt. Governor

ANDREW P. SIDAMON-ERISTOFF  
State Treasurer

May 13, 2015

The Honorable David C. Hespe  
Acting Commissioner  
Department of Education  
100 River View Plaza  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Acting Commissioner Hespe:

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A.18A:7A-56 which allows the State to provide a loan to a school district faced with a fiscal crisis, you are hereby directed to advance the sum of \$4,000,000 from funds available in the School District Deficit Relief account (15-100-034-5120-489) to address Lakewood School District's deficit for the 2014-2015 school year. Please note that Lakewood is considered eligible for funding pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A.18A:7A-55 and as such may be approved for an advance in State aid to be repaid with a term of repayment not to exceed 10 years.

This payment shall be considered a loan according to the provisions of the law as specified above. Your request for a 10-year term of repayment has been approved, with repayment to be made through automatic deductions to the State aid provided to the school district, beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.

Sincerely,

Andrew P. Sidamon-Eristoff  
State Treasurer

c: Thomas Neff  
Patricia Morgan

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State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO Box 500  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor  
KIM GUADALONE  
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE  
Commissioner

June 10, 2015

TO: Andrew P. Sidamon-Eristoff  
State Treasurer

FROM: David C. Hespe  
Commissioner

SUBJECT: State Aid Advance for Lakewood School District Under the *School District Fiscal Accountability Act*

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-56, I am writing you to recommend the advance of \$4,500,000 in state aid from the School District Deficit Relief account (15-100-034-5120-489) to the Lakewood School District. The Department finds that this advance payment is necessary to ensure the provision of a thorough and efficient education.

Mr. Michael Azzara has served as state monitor in the Lakewood School District since April 2014, along with Mr. David Shafter and Mrs. Theresa Pollifrone-Sinatra who have been serving as assistant state monitors since September 2014 and February 2015, respectively. They continue to work with the district on the following:

- Meet with administration and Board of Education to develop an understanding of the issues and causes of the deficit situation;
- Review all expenditures of the district;
- Review grant funding and expenditures to ensure funds will be expended prior to the end of the grant period in accordance with the terms of the grant; and
- Review the corrective action plan and audit recommendations for fiscal year 2014-2015.

In addition, as part of the ongoing work as state monitor and assistant state monitors, all purchase orders are being reviewed prior to issuance and they are restricting any unnecessary purchases and reviewing and approving monthly bill lists.

Due to the amount of the advance and its impact on local taxpayers, I recommend a ten-year term for repayment. In anticipation of this loan, the district is including the first year's repayment of \$450,000 in its 2015-2016 budget. Upon approval and issuance of the advance, this repayment will be effectuated by the Department through automatic deductions in the state

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Andrew P. Sidamon-Eristoff  
June 10, 2015  
Page 2

aid provided to the school district. At this time, there is no recommendation for the assessment of interest. We can discuss this further and may determine to impose interest on the unpaid balance in the future pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-56(b).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Glenn Forney, director, Office of State Monitors at (609) 943-4115.

DCH/TM/GF/tch

c: William Haldeman  
Timothy Matheny  
Kevin Dehmer  
Yut'se Thomas  
Glenn Forney  
David Joye  
Cindy Lee  
Charlene Holzbaur

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State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO Box 500  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor  
KIM GUADAGNO  
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE  
Commissioner

June 16, 2015

TO: Andrew P. Sidamon-Eristoff  
State Treasurer

FROM: David C. Hespe  
Commissioner

SUBJECT: State Aid Advance for Lakewood School District Under the *School District Fiscal Accountability Act*

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-56, I am writing you to recommend the advance of \$4,500,000 in state aid in state aid from the School District Deficit Relief account (15-100-034-5120-489) to the Lakewood School District. The Department finds that this advance payment is necessary to ensure the provision of a thorough and efficient education.

Mr. Michael Azzara has served as state monitor in the Lakewood School District since April 2014, along with Mr. David Shafter and Mrs. Theresa Pollifrone-Sinatra who have been serving as assistant state monitors since September 2014 and February 2015, respectively. They continue to work with the district on the following:

- Meet with administration and Board of Education to develop an understanding of the issues and causes of the deficit situation;
- Review all expenditures of the district;
- Review grant funding and expenditures to ensure funds will be expended prior to the end of the grant period in accordance with the terms of the grant; and
- Review the corrective action plan and audit recommendations for fiscal year 2014-15.

In addition, as part of the ongoing work as state monitor and assistant state monitors, all purchase orders are being reviewed prior to issuance and they are restricting any unnecessary purchases and reviewing and approving monthly bill lists.

Due to amount of the advance and its impact on local taxpayers, I recommend a ten-year term for repayment. In anticipation of this loan, the district is including the first year's repayment of \$450,000 in its 2015-2016 budget. Upon approval and issuance of the advance, this

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Andrew P. Sidamon-Eristoff  
June 16, 2012  
Page 2

repayment will be effectuated by the Department through automatic deductions in the state aid provided to the school district. At this time, there is no recommendation for the assessment of interest. We can discuss this further and may determine to impose interest on the unpaid balance in the future pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-56(b).

Please note that this letter supercedes the previous Lakewood Loan request and is not in addition to.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Glenn Forney, director, Office of State Monitors at (609) 943-4115.

DCH/TM/GF/tch

c: William Haldeman  
Timothy Matheney  
Kevin Dehmer  
Yut'se Thomas  
Glenn Forney  
David Joye  
Cindy Lee  
Charlene Holzbaur

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State of New Jersey  
OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER  
PO Box 002  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0002

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO  
Lt. Governor

ANDREW P. SIDAMON-ERISTOFF  
State Treasurer

June 16, 2015

The Honorable David C. Hespe  
Commissioner  
Department of Education  
100 River View Plaza  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Commissioner Hespe:

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A.18A:7A-56 which allows the State to provide a loan to a school district faced with a fiscal crisis, you are hereby directed to advance the sum of \$4,500,000 from funds available in the School District Deficit Relief account (15-100-034-5120-489) to address Lakewood School District's deficit for the 2014-2015 school year. Please note that this amount is a revision to and supersedes the \$4,000,000 approved in my letter dated May 13, 2015. Lakewood is considered eligible for funding pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A.18A:7A-55 and as such may be approved for an advance in State aid to be repaid with a term of repayment not to exceed 10 years.

This payment shall be considered a loan according to the provisions of the law as specified above. Your request for a 10-year term of repayment has been approved, with repayment to be made through automatic deductions to the State aid provided to the school district, beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.

Sincerely,

Andrew P. Sidamon-Eristoff  
State Treasurer

cc: Thomas Neff  
Patricia Morgan

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Entitled

" State Advance  
Lakewood - 2016 PDF "



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO Box 500  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor  
KIM GUADAGNO  
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE  
Commissioner

June 23, 2016

TO: Ford M. Scudder  
Acting State Treasurer

FROM: David C. Hespe  
Commissioner

SUBJECT: State Aid Advance for Lakewood School District Under the *School District Fiscal Accountability Act*

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-56, I am writing you to recommend the advance of \$5,640,183 in state aid from the School District Deficit Relief account (16-100-034-5120-489) to the Lakewood School District. The Department finds that this advance payment is necessary to ensure the provision of a thorough and efficient education.



The Lakewood School District will have an estimated deficit of \$12,031,986 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. The total deficit includes \$2,952,396 budgetary deficit for the year ending June 30, 2015 and an estimated deficit for the current school year of \$9,079,590. The cause of the current year deficit is an estimated over expenditure of \$7,263,934 in regular transportation and aid in lieu accounts, \$1,402,237 in special education transportation accounts and a \$1,503,412 over expenditure in tuition accounts. This is offset by a \$1,000,000 grant from Lakewood Township for non-mandated transportation not included in the original budget and \$89,993 in excess of budgets in other local revenue lines and extraordinary aid.

The district's total deficit of \$12,031,986 includes an over expenditure of funds for courtesy busing for the current year. The amount requested for the advance of state aid of \$5,640,183 does not include the over expenditure for courtesy busing and will not be used to offset such costs.

Mr. Michael Azzara has served as state monitor in the Lakewood School District since April 2014, along with Mr. David Shafter and Mrs. Theresa Pollifrone-Sinatra who have been serving as assistant state monitors since September 2014 and February 2015, respectively. They continue to work with the district on the following:

- Meet with administration and Board of Education to develop an understanding of the issues and causes of the deficit situation;
- Review all expenditures of the district;

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Ford M. Scudder  
June 23, 2016  
Page 2

- Review grant funding and expenditures to ensure funds will be expended prior to the end of the grant period in accordance with the terms of the grant; and
- Review the corrective action plan and audit recommendations for fiscal year 2014-2015.

In addition, as part of the ongoing work as state monitor and assistant state monitors, all purchase orders are being reviewed prior to issuance and they are restricting any unnecessary purchases and reviewing and approving monthly bill lists.

Due to the amount of the advance and its impact on local taxpayers, I recommend a ten-year term for repayment. The first repayment installment of \$564,018 will be due in the 2016-2017 school year. Upon approval and issuance of the advance, this repayment will be effectuated by the Department through automatic deductions in the state aid provided to the school district. At this time, there is no recommendation for the assessment of interest. We can discuss this further and may determine to impose interest on the unpaid balance in the future pursuant to N.I.S.A. 18A:7A-56(b).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Glenn Forney, executive director, Office of State Monitors at (609) 943-4115.

DCH/KD/GF/teh

c: Patricia Morgan  
William Heldeman  
Kevin Dehmer  
Yur'se Thomas  
Glenn Forney  
David Joye  
Cindy Lee  
David Ridolfino

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State of New Jersey  
OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER  
PO Box 002  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0002

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO  
Lt. Governor


FORD M. SCUDDER  
Acting State Treasurer

TO: David C. Heape, Commissioner  
Department of Education

FROM: Ford M. Scudder  
Acting State Treasurer. *FMS*

DATE: June 27, 2016

SUBJECT: State Aid Advance for Lakewood School District under the *School District Fiscal Accountability Act*

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A.18A:7A-56 which allows the State to provide a loan to a school district faced with a fiscal crisis, you are hereby directed to advance the sum of \$5,640,183 from funds available in the School District Deficit Relief account (16-100-034-5120-489) to address Lakewood School District's deficit for the 2015-2016 school year. Please note that Lakewood is considered eligible for funding pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A.18A:7A-55 and as such may be approved for an advance in State aid to be repaid with a term of repayment not to exceed 10 years. 

This payment shall be considered a loan according to the provisions of the law as specified above. Your request for a 10-year term of repayment has been approved, with repayment to be made through automatic deductions to the State aid provided to the school district, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.

C. David Ridolfino  
Mary Byrne  
Hannah Good  
Glenn Forney

Entitled

" State Advice Calused  
- 201A pd. f. "

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State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO Box 500  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor

KIM GUADAGINO  
Lt. Governor

KIMBERLEY HARRINGTON  
Commissioner

November 9, 2017

TO: Ford M. Scudder  
State Treasurer

FROM: Kimberley Harrington  
Commissioner

SUBJECT: State Aid Advance for Lakewood School District under the School District Fiscal Accountability Act

Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-56*, I am writing you to recommend the advance of \$8,522,678 in state aid from the School District Deficit Relief account (18-100-034-5120-489) to the Lakewood School District. The Department finds that this advance payment is necessary to ensure the provision of a thorough and efficient education.

The Lakewood School District will have an estimated deficit of \$12,031,986 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. The amount requested for the advance of state aid of \$8,522,678 is needed to allow the district to meet the needs of its students and provide a thorough and efficient education.

Mr. David Shafter has served as assistant state monitor in the Lakewood School District since September 2016 and as state monitor since September 2017, along with Mr. Michael Azzam. The state monitors continue to work with the district in helping the administration and Board of Education develop an understanding of the issues and causes of the deficit situation. They also review all expenditures of the district and review grant funding and expenditures to ensure funds will be expended prior to the end of the grant period in accordance with the terms of the grant in addition to reviewing the corrective action plan and audit recommendations for the prior fiscal year.

As part of the ongoing work as state monitors, all purchase orders are being reviewed prior to issuance and they are restricting any unnecessary purchases and reviewing and approving monthly bill lists.

Due to the amount of the advance and its impact on local taxpayers, I recommend a ten-year term for repayment. The first repayment installment of \$852,267.80 will be due in the 2018-2019 school year. Upon approval and issuance of the advance, this repayment will be

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Ford M. Seidler  
Page 2  
November 9, 2017

effectuated by the Department through automatic deductions in the state aid provided to the school district. At this time, there is no recommendation for the assessment of interest. We can discuss this further and may determine to impose interest on the unpaid balance in the future pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-56(b).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Glenn Dorney, executive director, Office of State Monitors at (609) 376-3954.

KH/KL/H/eh  
cc: Chris Huber  
Kevin Dehmer  
Yulise Thomas  
Glenn Dorney  
Amanda Schultz  
Cindy Lee  
David Ridolfino



State of New Jersey  
 OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER  
 PO Box 002  
 TRENTON, NJ 08625-0002

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
 Governor

KIM GUADAGNO  
 Lt. Governor

FORD M. SCUDDER  
 State Treasurer

TO: Kimberley Harrington, Commissioner  
 Department of Education

PROM: Ford M. Scudder *FMS*  
 State Treasurer

DATE: November 22, 2017

SUBJECT: State Aid Advance for Lakewood School District under the *School District Fiscal Accountability Act*

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A.18A:7A-56 which allows the State to provide a loan to a school district faced with a fiscal crisis, you are hereby directed to advance the sum of \$8,522,678 from funds available in the School District Deficit Relief account (18-100-034-5120-489) to address Lakewood School District's deficit for the 2017-2018 school year. Please note that Lakewood is considered eligible for funding pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A.18A:7A-55 and as such may be approved for an advance in State aid to be repaid with a term of repayment not to exceed 10 years.

This payment shall be considered a loan according to the provisions of the law as specified above. Your request for a 10-year term of repayment has been approved, with repayment to be made through automatic deductions to the State aid provided to the school district, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

- c: David Ridolfino
- Brian Franz
- Lynn Azaroh
- Hannah Good
- Alexander Sitts
- Glenn Forney

*28*