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Subject: ICYMI - Gopal Smacks Murphy on Lakewood Funding

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Gopal smacks Murphy on Lakewood school funding

'It is unacceptable for any school district to be singled out for special treatment,'
Monmouth Dem Senator says

By David Wildstein, March 20 2019 6:39 pm

State Sen. Vin Gopal (D-Long Branch) today blasted Gov. Phil Murphy for offering an additional \$15 million in school funding to Lakewood while cutting state dollars going to schools in his Monmouth County district.

"It is unacceptable for any school district to be singled out for special treatment," said Gopal. "The administration's apparent proposal to divert \$15 million in additional state funding to Lakewood's School District is unfair to the hundreds of municipalities across our State that are working hard to meet their commitments under the new school funding formula."

Lakewood school funding has become a political hot potato in recent years as candidates position themselves to win the endorsement of the Vaad, a council of rabbis and local business leaders with an ability to swing votes.

Gopal said that Eatontown, Freeholder Regional and Ocean Township are set to lose state funds following declines in enrollment.

"I would like to ask the administration to explain how these proposed funding increases for Lakewood were calculated, and work with the Legislature to ensure that our school funding system remains fair and equitable to all New Jersey school districts," Gopal said.

The majority of the 84 school districts in Monmouth and Ocean counties are bracing for a reduction in school funding next year, according to numbers released last week by the state Department of Education.