

Gov's statement on Impact Aid means \$24 million for GMCS

Written by By Beth Blakeman Associate Editor
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Gallup McKinley Schools District Superintendent Mike Hyatt says Impact Aid funds for the 2019-2020 School Year could soon be part of an effort to repair and replace school buildings, increase technology access and assist in fulfilling needs in Indian education.

The long-sought funds may be within sight as Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham issued a statement Jan. 22 saying the state must return roughly \$60 million in Impact Aid credits that were deducted in Fiscal Year 2020. About \$24 million of that would go to GMCS.

The governor called on Rep. Patty Lundstrom, D-McKinley, San Juan, and Sen. George Muñoz, D-Cibola, McKinley, San Juan, to craft a solution for the longstanding issue and fix the formula funding gap without forcing the Public Education Department to pull resources from other programs.

Hyatt told the *Gallup Sun* that the issue remains open, despite the governor's statement.

"We're still challenging the next year, 2020-2021," he said.

Hyatt said he hopes the current legislature will allow McKinley County to keep all of its Impact Aid funding for the future.

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