



National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

444 N. Capitol St., NW, Ste. 419 | Washington, DC 20001 | (p) 202.624.5455 | www.NAFISDC.org

December 2, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS), we write to express our support for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the conference report to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. NAFIS applauds this tremendous bipartisan, bicameral effort – that includes Title VII, Impact Aid – to replace the nation’s outdated Federal K-12 education law.

NAFIS strongly supports the Impact Aid policy changes included in ESSA. These changes will strengthen the program for all federally impacted school districts. ESSA includes a set of critical policy improvements for Title VII, Impact Aid:

- Makes permanent technical and formula changes to Federal Properties that have already reduced subjectivity in the program and increased the timeliness of payments.
- Eliminates the Federal Properties “lockout” provision that currently prevents eligible federally impacted school districts from accessing Impact Aid funding.
- Adjusts the Basic Support formula to ensure equal proration when appropriations are sufficient to fund the proration formula (Learning Opportunity Threshold).
- Includes a hold harmless, to provide budget certainty to school districts facing a funding cliff or significant changes to their federally-connected student enrollment.

NAFIS is encouraged ESSA increases, in aggregate, the authorization level for Impact Aid, however, it is stagnant for the first three years of the four-year authorization. Impact Aid is unlike other Federal education programs as a reimbursement for the loss of local tax revenue that is a direct result of Federal activities. NAFIS encourages Congress to uphold its obligation to federally impacted school districts by increasing funding for Impact Aid through the appropriations process.

Congress must pass ESSA before the end of the year to ensure the Impact Aid policy changes can go into effect as soon as possible. Both policy and funding support are critical for the successful implementation of the Impact Aid program and to maintain the Federal Government’s obligation to federally impacted school districts and the students they serve.

Sincerely,

Hilary Goldmann, Executive Director
NAFIS

Jocelyn Bissonnette, Director of Government Affairs
NAFIS

THE NAFIS FAMILY

MISA

Military Impacted
Schools Association

NIISA

National Indian Impacted
Schools Association

FLISA

Federal Lands Impacted
Schools Association

MTLLS

Mid-to-Low-LOT
Schools