



National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

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TALKING POINTS: 2019 NAFIS SPRING CONFERENCE

Impact Aid Overview

Impact Aid is the Federal Government's reimbursement to school districts for the presence of nontaxable Federal property (i.e. military installations, Indian Lands, Federal low-rent housing, national laboratories and grasslands) and federally connected students. The program has not been fully funded in decades. Funding appropriated annually by Congress goes directly to school districts for any general fund purpose, including academic materials, technology, staff or transportation, supporting all students. This flexibility allows school districts to target funds based on need, as determined by district leadership.

As you meet with your Members of Congress, be sure to tell the story of your district. Illustrate the financial realities of your district – if you have a limited bonding capacity, little or no taxable land, high rates of poverty, etc. Detail what you do with your Impact Aid funding. Show off the big successes from your district. Tell them what you would be able to accomplish with more funding. Be sure to share the infrastructure story and picture you brought.

Impact Aid Coalitions

The bipartisan House and Senate Impact Aid Coalitions were established in the 1990s and have since led successful efforts to protect and prioritize the Impact Aid program. There are 106 current Members of Congress who were on the coalitions last year, and we are hoping to have the largest groups yet for the 116th Congress. If you talk to a member who is not currently on the coalition, suggest they join. Have them contact Leslie@NAFISDC.org to sign up or with any questions.

Talking Points

- **JOIN the House or Senate Impact Aid Coalition for the 116th Congress (2019-2020).**

Funding

Sequestration: Budget cuts (known as sequestration) return this year absent a Congressional agreement to raise the funding caps. Because Impact Aid is current year funded and, in many cases, comprises a significant portion of a school district's budget, sequestration hits federally impacted school districts sooner and more significantly than other school districts. If the caps are not raised Non-Defense Discretionary (NDD) funding will face a \$55 billion (9 percent) cut. It is imperative that we raise the NDD caps in order to avoid critical cuts to Impact Aid and to allow for increases in FY20.

FY20 Impact Aid Funding: The Administration's budget request included level funding of Basic Support and the elimination of the Federal Property program. While NAFIS appreciates the proposal to keep the funding of the Basic Support program level with FY19, we are very concerned about the elimination of the Federal Property program and urge Congress to – as in previous years – ignore this call and keep the critical funding source for districts impacted by federal lands. Beyond level funding, we are asking for a \$50 million increase in Basic Support to return to FY18 levels of LOT or a \$100 million increase to reach 100 percent of LOT. We are also asking for a \$2 million increase for Federal Property.

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

Talking Points

- Congress must raise the NDD caps and eliminate sequestration to prevent funding cuts for programs like Impact Aid.
- SUPPORT the \$52 million increase for Impact Aid in FY20
 - The \$2 million increase for Federal Properties would help cover the cost of new school districts as the Federal Government continues to acquire property.
 - The \$50 million increase for Basic Support would provide much-needed resources to maintain spending comparable with non-federally impacted school districts and to keep pace with FY18 funding levels. We need \$100 million just to reach 100 percent of the proration (LOT).
- SIGN the Dear Colleague letters circulating in the House and the Senate.
 - HOUSE deadline to sign on is March 22. To sign, have them contact:
 - Brandon Mendoza (Rep. Susan Davis) brandon.mendoza@mail.house.gov
 - Matt Neighbors (Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers) Matt.Neighbors@mail.house.gov
 - Katy Nazaretova (Rep. Rick Larsen) Katy.Nazaretova@mail.house.gov
 - Zack Barth (Rep. Roger Williams) Zack.Barth@mail.house.gov

Section	FY17 Final	FY18 Final	FY19 Final	FY20 President Request	FY20 NAFIS Request
Federal Properties	\$ 66,813,000	\$ 73,313,000	\$ 74,313,000	\$ 0	\$ 76,313,000
Basic Support	\$1,191,233,000	\$1,270,242,000	\$1,301,242,000	\$1,301,242,000	\$1,351,242,000
Disabilities	\$ 48,316,000	\$ 48,316,000	\$ 48,316,000	\$ 48,316,000	\$ 48,316,000
Construction	\$ 17,406,000	\$ 17,406,000	\$ 17,406,000	\$ 17,406,000	\$ 17,406,000
Facilities	\$ 4,835,000	\$ 4,835,000	\$ 4,835,000	\$ 4,835,000	\$ 4,835,000
Total	\$1,328,603,000	\$1,414,112,000	\$1,446,112,000	\$1,371,799,000	\$1,498,112,000

Infrastructure

Impact Aid Infrastructure Act: In the 115th Congress, the *Impact Aid Infrastructure Act* was introduced in the House. We hope to reintroduce the bill again in this Congress in a bipartisan fashion. The bill adds a one-time infusion of funds into the Impact Aid Construction program to address the significant backlog of school construction needs at federally impacted school districts. The eligibility pool of school districts is broader than the regular construction program given the significant resources authorized under this legislation. Our hope is to get this legislation included in a potential broader infrastructure package and to ensure federally impacted schools are a part of any infrastructure conversation.

Rebuild America's Schools Act: The Rebuild America's Schools Act would create a \$100 billion school infrastructure program, including grants and loan assistance available to all public schools. Senator Reed and Representative Bobby Scott have re-introduced this bill in the 116th Congress. It passed the House Education and Labor committee in February. In this year's version the Impact Aid authorization was increased to \$100 million per year for five years.

Talking Points

- **SPONSOR the Impact Aid Infrastructure Act.**
- **SUPPORT the Rebuild America's Schools Act.**
 - **NAFIS has identified over \$4.2 billion in pressing school facility needs at NAFIS member school districts.**
 - **Federally impacted school districts have limited or no bonding capacity due to the presence of nontaxable Federal property. In recognition of this fact, the Impact Aid law has included a construction line item since its inception.**
 - **This is not a State or local responsibility – the Federal government already recognizes its responsibility in federally impacted school districts.**
 - **Federally impacted school districts need adequate resources to address health and safety code violations and capacity issues that come with educating students in buildings that are, in some cases, over 100 years old, as well as to ensure all students have access to 21st century learning environments. Impact Aid construction funding falls far short of need.**
 - **The staffing and management capacity is already in place at the Department of Education to get funding for shovel-ready projects out the door through any major infrastructure legislation.**

Vouchers

After last year's battle over the attempt to turn Impact Aid into a voucher program, the proposal is back with some tweaks. The Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act of 2019 was introduced in the House by Representative Banks (R-IN) with 23 cosponsors and in the Senate by Senators Sasse (NE), Scott (SC), and Cotton (AR). It would create \$6,000 vouchers for military connected children throughout the country. The bill removes the explicit Impact Aid pay-for as was in last year's bill. However, it is written to amend Title VII of the Every Student Succeeds Act – the Impact Aid Title. As written, it creates a new line item within Impact Aid for these military vouchers. It is authorized at \$1.2 billion – almost the exact authorization of 7003 Basic Support – but does not include a specified pay for. Because of its positioning in the Impact Aid program, we are still considering this legislation an Impact Aid voucher bill.

Talking Points

- **OPPOSE the Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act of 2019.**
 - **It is still an Impact Aid voucher and would assuredly take money from the Impact Aid program to create these vouchers.**
 - **We oppose public taxpayer dollars being used for private voucher schemes.**

Current Cosponsors of the Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act of 2019

House

Banks, Jim [R-IN-
Brooks, Susan W. [R-IN-5]
Budd, Ted [R-NC-13]
Burgess, Michael C. [R-TX-26]
Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]
Gibbs, Bob [R-OH-7]
Gosar, Paul A. [R-AZ-4]
Green, Mark E. [R-TN-7]
Hagedorn, Jim [R-MN-1]
Holding, George [R-NC-2]
Kelly, Trent [R-MS-1]
LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]
Latta, Robert E. [R-OH-5]
Lesko, Debbie [R-AZ-8]
Long, Billy [R-MO-7]
Loudermilk, Barry [R-GA-11]
Meadows, Mark [R-NC-11]
Mitchell, Paul [R-MI-10]
Moolenaar, John R. [R-MI-4]
Mooney, Alexander X. [R-WV-2]
Norman, Ralph [R-SC-5]
Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]
Scott, Austin [R-GA-8]
Walker, Mark [R-NC-6]
Webster, Daniel [R-FL-11]
Yoho, Ted S. [R-FL-3]

Senate

Cotton, Tom [R-AR]
Sasse, Ben [R-NE]
Scott, Tim [R-SC]