



TALKING POINTS: 2020 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 and can be used 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 Congressional offices, be sure to tell the story of your district. Illustrate the financial realities – if you have 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. Also talk about all aspects of Impact Aid. If you receive funding for children with disabilities (CWD), be sure to illustrate the work you do to educate these students and how imperative the funding is.

- **Tell the specifics of your federal impaction – your school community and the financial impacts.**
 - **Be clear about the difference between your current funding and what full funding would look like for your district, especially if you are a mid-to-low LOT district.**
- **If your district receives Children With Disabilities funding, tell them about your special education population, services, and costs.**
 - **Emphasize the gap between your IDEA and CWD funding and the actual costs of educating these students.**

Funding

FY 2021 Impact Aid Funding: The Administration’s budget request included level funding of the Basic Support program and the elimination of the Federal Property program. While NAFIS appreciates that Impact Aid was not included in the Administration’s proposed large block grant program, we oppose the elimination of the Federal Property program and urge Congress to – as in previous years – ignore this call and maintain this critical funding source for districts impacted by federal lands. We are asking for a \$50 million increase in Basic Support to reach 100 percent of LOT. We are also asking for a \$2 million increase for Federal Property.

Section	FY17 Final	FY18 Final	FY19 Final	FY20 Final	FY21 President’s Request	FY21 NAFIS Request
Federal Property	\$ 66,813,000	\$ 73,313,000	\$ 74,313,000	\$ 75,313,000	\$ 0	\$ 77,313,000
Basic Support	\$1,191,233,000	\$1,270,242,000	\$1,301,242,000	\$1,340,242,000	\$1,340,242,000	\$1,390,242,000
Disabilities	\$ 48,316,000	\$ 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	\$ 17,406,000
Facilities	\$ 4,835,000	\$ 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	\$1,486,112,000	\$1,410,799,000	\$1,538,112,000

THE NAFIS FAMILY

FLISA

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

MISA

Military Impacted Schools Association

MTLLS

Mid-to-Low-LOT Schools

NIISA

National Indian Impacted Schools Association

Senate – Ask members to SIGN the Dear Colleague letter supporting Impact Aid funding.

- Democrats – contact Alexandra Lowe-Server (Senator Gillibrand) - alexandra_lowe-server@gillibrand.senate.gov
- Republicans – contact Devin Barrett (Senator Inhofe) - devin_barrett@inhofe.senate.gov
- House – Thank members who signed the Dear Colleague letter.
- SUPPORT a \$52 million increase for Impact Aid in FY21.
 - \$2 million increase for Federal Property would help cover the cost of new school districts as the Federal Government continues to acquire property and districts continue to establish eligibility.
 - \$50 million increase for Basic Support would provide much-needed resources to maintain spending comparable with non-federally impacted school districts.

Infrastructure

Impact Aid Infrastructure Act – House: H.R. 3647, the *Impact Aid Infrastructure Act*, was introduced in the House by Representatives TJ Cox (D-CA) and Don Young (R-AK). It currently has 11 co-sponsors, including Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ-2), Rep. Pete Stauber (R-MN-8), Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ-3), Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-2) Rep. Suzan K. DelBene (D-WA-1), Rep. Collin C. Peterson (D-MN-7), Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA-3), Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM-3), and Rep. Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ-1). The bill would provide a one-time infusion of funds (\$1 billion) 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 infrastructure package and to ensure federally impacted schools are a part of any infrastructure conversation.

Impact Aid Infrastructure Act – Senate: Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) is expected to introduce a companion bill in the Senate and is seeking a Republican co-sponsor. This bill is nearly identical to H.R. 3647, in that it creates a one-time infusion of \$1 billion into the Impact Aid Construction program. For Indian lands districts, the bills are identical. For military districts, the eligibility threshold is expanded for the formula grants to reflect the eligibility threshold for the Department of Defense Supplemental Impact Aid program.

Rebuild America's Schools Act: H.R. 865, the *Rebuild America's Schools Act*, would create a \$100 billion school infrastructure program, including grants and loan assistance available to all public schools. The bill was introduced by Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA) into the House Education and Labor committee in February. The bill includes an Impact Aid construction authorization of \$100 million per year for five years. Companion legislation was introduced in the Senate by Senator Jack Reed (D-RI).

Talking Points

- House: SUPPORT the inclusion of the *Rebuild America's Schools Act* into a broad-scale infrastructure package.
- House: CO-SPONSOR H.R. 3647, the *Impact Aid Infrastructure Act*.
- Senate: SPONSOR the *Impact Aid Infrastructure Act* companion bill.
 - 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 for construction at 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 are already in place at the Department of Education to get funding for shovel-ready projects out the door through any major infrastructure legislation.

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 126 current Members of Congress on the coalitions. We are hoping to continue to grow these numbers and have the largest coalitions yet by the end of 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.**
 - **It is an easy way to show your support for federally impacted schools and Impact Aid. Membership does not require any commitment of time or staff.**
 - **The coalition serves as a resource to NAFIS in supporting and protecting Impact Aid.**

Vouchers

While the *Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act of 2019* (S. 695 and H.R. 1605) were not included in the National Defense Authorization Act this year, we remain concerned about it and other voucher schemes. The bill introduced in this Congress would create \$6,000 vouchers for military connected children throughout the country. The bill removes the explicit Impact Aid pay-for that was in last year's bill. **Both S. 695 and H.R. 1605 amend Title VII of the Every Student Succeeds Act – the Impact Aid Title – and create a new line item within Impact Aid for these military vouchers.** The bills are each authorized at \$1.2 billion – almost the exact authorization of 7003 Basic Support. Because of its positioning in the Impact Aid program, we view this legislation as an Impact Aid voucher bill.

If your Member of Congress is a co-sponsor of the House or Senate bills (see table on next page), please voice your disappointment with this support and encourage them to stay off any future bills. If your Member of Congress is not a co-sponsor of either bill, please thank them and encourage them to continue to stay off the bills and support Impact Aid.

Talking Points

- **OPPOSE S. 695 and H.R. 1605, the *Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act of 2019* and any similar voucher legislation.**
 - **Military voucher proposals would likely take money from the Impact Aid program.**
 - **We oppose public taxpayer dollars being used for private voucher schemes.**

Co-Sponsors of H.R. 1605, S. 695: The Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act of 2019

REPRESENTATIVES	Duffy, Sean P (R-WI-7)	Lamborn, Doug (R-CO-5)	Scalise, Steve (R-LA-1)
Abraham, Ralph Lee (R-LA-5)	Duncan, Jeff (R-SC-3)	Latta, Robert E (R-OH-5)	Schweikert, David (R-AZ-6)
Allen, Rick W (R-GA-12)	Dunn, Neal P (R-FL-2)	Lesko, Debbie (R-AZ-8)	Scott, Austin (R-GA-8)
Baird, James R (R-IN-4)	Estes, Ron (R-KS-4)	Long, Billy (R-MO-7)	Smith, Jason (R-MO-8)
Barr, Andy (R-KY-6)	Flores, Bill (R-TX-17)	Loudermilk, Barry (R-GA-11)	Stivers, Steve (R-OH-15)
Biggs, Andy (R-AZ-5)	Fulcher, Russ (R-ID-1)	Marchant, Kenny (R-TX-24)	Taylor, Van (R-TX-3)
Bilirakis, Gus M (R-FL-12)	Gaetz, Matt (R-FL-1)	Marshall, Roger W (R-KS-1)	Wagner, Ann (R-MO-2)
Bishop, Dan (R-NC-9)	Gibbs, Bob (R-OH-7)	Mast, Brian J (R-FL-18)	Walker, Mark (R-NC-6)
Brooks, Mo (R-AL-5)	Gooden, Lance (R-TX-5)	McClintock, Tom (R-CA-4)	Waltz, Michael (R-FL-6)
Brooks, Susan W (R-IN-5)	Gosar, Paul (R-AZ-4)	Meadows, Mark (R-NC-11)	Watkins, Steve (R-KS-2)
Buck, Ken (R-CO-4)	Graves, Tom (R-GA-14)	Meuser, Daniel (R-PA-9)	Weber, Randy Sr (R-TX-14)
Bucshon, Larry (R-IN-8)	Green, Mark E (R-TN-7)	Miller, Carol D (R-WV-3)	Webster, Daniel (R-FL-11)
Budd, Ted (R-NC-13)	Guthrie, Brett (R-KY-2)	Mitchell, Paul (R-MI-10)	Wenstrup, Brad R (R-OH-2)
Burchett, Tim (R-TN-2)	Hagedorn, Jim (R-MN-1)	Moolenaar, John R (R-MI-4)	Wittman, Robert J (R-VA-1)
Burgess, Michael (R-TX-26)	Harris, Andy (R-MD-1)	Mooney, Alexander (R-WV-2)	Yoho, Ted S (R-FL-3)
Byrne, Bradley (R-AL-1)	Hern, Kevin (R-OK-1)	Norman, Ralph (R-SC-5)	Zeldin, Lee M (R-NY-1)
Chabot, Steve (R-OH-1)	Holding, George (R-NC-2)	Olson, Pete (R-TX-22)	
Cline, Ben (R-VA-6)	Hudson, Richard (R-NC-8)	Palazzo, Steven M (R-MS-4)	SENATORS
Cole, Tom (R-OK-4)	Huizenga, Bill (R-MI-2)	Perry, Scott (R-PA-10)	Blackburn, Marsha (R-TN)
Comer, James (R-KY-1)	Jordan, Jim (R-OH-4)	Posey, Bill (R-FL-8)	Braun, Mike (R-IN)
Crawford, Eric (R-AR-1)	Joyce, John (R-PA-13)	Ratcliffe, John (R-TX-4)	Cruz, Ted (R-TX)
Crenshaw, Dan (R-TX-2)	Kelly, Trent (R-MS-1)	Rice, Tom (R-SC-7)	Sasse, Ben (R-NE)
Curtis, John R (R-UT-3)	Kustoff, David (R-TN-8)	Riggleman, Denver (R-VA-5)	Scott, Rick (R-FL)
DesJarlais, Scott (R-TN-4)	LaMalfa, Doug (R-CA-1)	Rouzer, David (R-NC-7)	Scott, Tim (R-SC)