



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anne O'Brien, Director of Communications
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
202-624-3611
anne@nafisd.org

Over 1,100 School Districts and 9 Million Students Benefit from Impact Aid

NAFIS reports show distribution of funds; highlight impact of underfunding on school districts & states

Washington, DC – September 10, 2020 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) today released [Impact Aid Payments Overview: Fiscal Year 2019 Section 7003 – Basic Support](#) and [Impact Aid Payments Overview: Fiscal Year 2019 Section 7002 – Federal Property](#). These publications detail how Impact Aid funds were distributed to individual school districts across the United States and its territories, including the amount of payment and the amount the district would receive if the program were fully funded. State-level information is also included.

According to FY 2019 data from the U.S. Department of Education (the most recent available), approximately \$1.44 billion in Impact Aid appropriations supported 1,159 school districts serving more than nine million students. The NAFIS publications focus on funds for two sections of the program, Section 7002 – Federal Property and Section 7003 – Basic Support.

Impact Aid is a Federal education program that reimburses school districts for the lost revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of nontaxable Federal property, such as military installations, Indian trust and treaty lands, Federal low-rent housing, Federal dams and other Federal buildings and property. Most public school districts are funded largely through local taxes and fees, but Federal land is exempt from taxation. Therefore, districts containing Federal property are at a financial disadvantage in funding their schools. Impact Aid (Title VII of the Every Student Succeeds Act, ESSA) recognizes the Federal government's obligation to help finance public education and support students in areas where it holds land, though it hasn't been fully funded since 1969.

"Impact Aid plays a critical role in school districts' efforts to provide all students with the opportunities they need to meet their full potential, funding curriculum, teachers' salaries, social emotional supports, education technology and other priorities as determined by local officials," said NAFIS Executive Director Hilary Goldmann. "Particularly given the increased expenses that school districts face as a result of COVID-19, these flexible funds are helping them start the school year and operate in ways that keep students, staff and communities safe. However, these publications make clear that some school districts and the students they serve are being shortchanged hundreds of thousands of dollars because the program is not fully funded."

School districts must apply each year for funds – a lengthy process that for most school districts relies on in-person data collection and interaction.

"As we look to the coming school year, the challenges of safely and accurately collecting the data required for the FY 2022 Impact Aid application are daunting for many school districts. Most begin the process in September and October – this year a time when many school districts will be engaged in distance learning,"

Goldmann continued. “If a school district cannot accurately collect the information needed, it could have a devastating impact on the district’s budget – and further shortchange students. Congress must act to ensure federally impacted school districts have the resources they need to offer high-quality education during these uncertain times.”

The publications and an infographic offering a national snapshot of the program can be found on the [NAFIS website](#).

###

The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents the 1,100-plus federally impacted public school districts that together educate more than 9 million students across the nation. Federally impacted school districts are those located on or near nontaxable Federal property—including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national parks, national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. These school districts, which are demographically and geographically diverse, receive Impact Aid, a Federal education program that reimburses school districts for the lost local revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of Federal property. To learn more, visit www.nafisdc.org.