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South Dakota School Districts Receive More Than \$76 Million in Impact Aid

New NAFIS reports show distribution of funds by state & school district

Washington, DC – September 21, 2020 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) has 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 show how Impact Aid funds were distributed to school districts across the United States and its territories.

In FY 2019, South Dakota school districts received more than \$76 million, among the highest in the nation according to the most recent data available from the U.S. Department of Education. Schools in the state received over \$70 million in Basic Support funding and \$1.6 million in Impact Aid Children with Disabilities funding. They also received \$3.5 million in Federal Property funding.

Thirty-nine South Dakota school districts serving almost 27,000 students benefitted from these funds. Nationally, approximately \$1.44 billion in Impact Aid appropriations supported 1,159 school districts serving over nine million students.

Impact Aid is a Federal education program that partially reimburses school districts for the lost revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of nontaxable Federal property, such as military installations, Indian trust or treaty lands, Federal low-rent housing, national parks, Federal dams and other Federal buildings and property. Most school districts are funded largely through local taxes and fees, so districts containing tax-exempt Federal property are at a disadvantage in funding their schools. Impact Aid recognizes the Federal government's obligation to help finance public education in areas where it holds land, though it hasn't been fully funded since 1969. School districts apply each year for funds – a lengthy process that for most districts relies on in-person data collection and interaction.

“School districts in South Dakota depend on Impact Aid to help pay for teacher salaries, student transportation, school construction, education technology and much more,” said Max Schochenmaier, Executive Director of Impact Schools of South Dakota (ISSD). “These funds are critical to ensuring South Dakota students have access to a quality education – and any cuts would be devastating.”

“As we look to the coming school year, many school districts are concerned about whether they can safely and accurately collect the data they need for the Impact Aid application in the context of COVID-19,” continued Schochenmaier. “The process begins in September and October, when many school

districts will be engaged in distance learning this year. If a district cannot collect the information needed, it may receive less funding than it deserves.”

South Dakota Senator John Thune and Representative Dusty Johnson have each co-sponsored bipartisan legislation to provide relief to Impact Aid school districts given the COVID-19 context.

“Impact Aid plays an important role in school districts’ efforts to provide all students with the opportunities they need to meet their full potential,” said NAFIS Executive Director Hilary Goldmann. “These NAFIS publications make clear that even before COVID-19, some school districts and the students they serve were being shortchanged hundreds of thousands of dollars because the program is not fully funded. We thank Senator Thune and Representative Johnson for their leadership in ensuring students are not further disadvantaged due to COVID-19. Now, Congress must act to ensure Impact Aid school districts get 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](#).

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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.