



National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

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September 11, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health,
and Human Services and Education
Appropriations
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor Health,
and Human Services and Education
Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt, Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Members Murray and Cole:

The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) strongly supports the Impact Aid Coronavirus Relief Act that has been introduced in the Senate (S. 4063) by Senators Thune (R-SD) and Smith (D-MN), and in the House (H.R. 8075) by Representatives Courtney (D-CT) and Johnson (R-SD). NAFIS urges you and your colleagues to include this provision in the FY 21 Continuing Resolution.

The Impact Aid Coronavirus Relief Act would permit federally impacted school districts to use FY 21 (2019-2020 school year) student counts and acreage valuation data for the FY 22 Impact Aid application. School districts would also have the option of conducting new student counts and calculating new acreage valuations for the FY 22 application. Given the challenge around holding an accurate and safe student count during the COVID-19 pandemic, this issue is of grave concern for federally impacted school districts.

School districts that receive Section 7003 Basic Support funding must count their students annually to apply for Impact Aid payments. School districts plan for the implementation of their student count very early in the school year. School districts typically count their students in September and October to meet the FY 22 Impact Aid application deadline of January 31. Most school districts achieve this task by sending paper Parent Pupil Survey forms home for parents to complete and then return with their student. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this approach is neither feasible nor practical in most circumstances for this school year.

THE NAFIS FAMILY

MISA

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MTLLS

Mid-to-Low-LOT
Schools

Because of the extraordinary circumstances posed by COVID-19, NAFIS believes it is a reasonable and a sound solution to permit school districts to use their FY 21 student count and acreage valuation for their FY 22 application.

Thank you for considering including the Impact Aid Coronavirus Relief Act in the FY 21 Continuing Resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hilary Goldmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hilary Goldmann
Executive Director