



## TALKING POINTS: 2021 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). 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 district leaders to target funds based on need.

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 to support students. Show off the big successes from your district. Tell them what you would be able to accomplish with more funding. Be prepared to talk about COVID – your school district operating status (in-person, hybrid, fully remote), how you are using the funding received through the COVID relief packages, and your needs going forward. This is a great time to discuss your unique financial situation given the federal ownership of land and your disproportionate reliance on state and federal funds.

- **Tell the specifics of your federal impactation – 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 – reference [NAFIS Impact Aid payments publications](#).**
- **Talk about your needs related to COVID and the financial reality of federally impacted school districts going forward.**
- **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 2022 Impact Aid Funding:** In FY 2021, Impact Aid received a \$15 million increase - \$14 million to Basic Support and \$1 million to Federal Property. As we enter the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress and the FY 2022 appropriations process, we are in a world without budget caps for the first time since 2012. Between this, Democratic control of the House, Senate and White House, and the urgent need to stimulate the economy, the budget numbers could be significantly higher than past years. To maintain the gains in LOT we have seen in the past years, we are asking for a \$100 million increase for Basic Support, and to allow for an increase in eligible or applying districts, we are asking for a \$2 million increase for Federal Property.

**Dear Colleague Letters:** Every year, Impact Aid advocates in the House and Senate circulate letters signed by Members of Congress to appropriators urging them to support “strong and robust funding” for Impact Aid in their appropriations package. These bipartisan letters demonstrate the importance of Impact Aid and gain significant support – last year, 100 Representatives signed the letter. The letters are currently circulating in the House and Senate.

## 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

Section	FY18 Final	FY19 Final	FY20 Final	FY21 Final	FY22 NAFIS Request
Federal Property	\$ 73,313,000	\$ 74,313,000	\$ 75,313,000	\$ 76,313,000	\$ 78,313,000
Basic Support	\$1,270,242,000	\$1,301,242,000	\$1,340,242,000	\$1,354,242,000	\$1,454,242,000
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,414,112,000</b>	<b>\$1,446,112,000</b>	<b>\$1,486,112,000</b>	<b>\$1,501,112,000</b>	<b>\$1,603,112,000</b>

### **Impact Aid Full Funding Legislation**

Because of the end of the budget caps and the new administration, NAFIS recommends introduction of an authorizing bill aimed at fully funding the Impact Aid program. This means fully funding the Basic Support formula, providing a proportional increase to Federal Property, and increasing the CWD payment to \$2,000 per student (or \$1,000 for an off-base military-connected student). This legislation would lay out a five year glidepath to Impact Aid full funding, splitting the \$1.1 billion request evenly over five years. The total increase for each year would be \$210 million.

As appropriations levels are not set in authorizing statutes, the Impact Aid full funding glidepath bill would serve as a messaging bill for the Appropriations Committees. Strong bipartisan support would send a clear message to the Appropriations Committees that Impact Aid full funding is a priority and would strengthen messaging for significant increases. We are working to secure bipartisan leaders for House and Senate introduction of the bill.

### **Talking Points**

- **SUPPORT a \$102 million increase for Impact Aid in FY22.**
  - **\$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.**
  - **\$100 million increase for Basic Support would maintain the purchasing power of the increases of the past years.**
- **SIGN the Dear Colleague letter supporting Impact Aid funding.**
  - **Senate Democrats – contact Alexandra Lowe-Server (Senator Gillibrand)**
  - **Senate Republicans – contact Devin Barrett (Senator Inhofe)**
  - **House Democrats – contact Robbie Farewell (Rep. Levin) or Sam Wilcoxson (Rep. Larsen)**
  - **House Republicans – contact Kendall Dehnal (Rep. McMorris Rodgers) or Katie Crane (Rep. Williams)**
- **SPONSOR or COSPONSOR the Impact Aid Full Funding Act**
  - **The Federal government has a responsibility to fully fund Impact Aid. It has not met this responsibility since 1969.**
  - **Five year glidepath would provide meaningful annual increases to districts.**

### **Infrastructure**

**Impact Aid Infrastructure Act – House:** H.R. X, the *Impact Aid Infrastructure Act*, was introduced in the House by Representatives Tom O’Halloran (D-AZ) and Don Young (R-AK). 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 allocation of funds to formula and competitive grants is identical to the Impact Aid Construction program, with the formula funds split evenly between Indian lands and military districts. The eligibility for Indian lands districts for formula funds remains the same as in the legislation. The

eligibility for military districts for formula funds is changed to include eligibility for the Department of Defense supplemental Impact Aid program. The eligibility pool of school districts for the competitive grants is broader than the regular construction program given the significant resources authorized under this legislation, and continues to prioritize Emergency Grants. Our hope is to get this legislation included in a potential infrastructure package and to ensure federally impacted school districts 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 on March 18 and is seeking a Republican co-sponsor as well as more Democratic support. This bill is identical to H.R. [X](#).

**Reopen and Rebuild America’s Schools Act:** H.R. 604 and S. 96, the *Reopen and Rebuild America’s Schools Act*, would create a \$100 billion school infrastructure program, including grants and loan assistance available to all public schools. Additionally, it includes an Impact Aid construction authorization of \$100 million per year for five years. The bills were introduced by Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) in February.

### Talking Points

- **CO-SPONSOR the *Impact Aid Infrastructure 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 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.**
- **SUPPORT the inclusion of the *Reopen and Rebuild America’s Schools Act* into a broad-scale infrastructure package or budget reconciliation bill.**
  - **Includes \$500 million for the Impact Aid Construction program.**

### 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 111 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 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. If you talk to a Member who is not currently on the coalition, suggest they join. Have them contact [Leslie@nafisdc.org](mailto:Leslie@nafisdc.org) to sign up or with any questions.

### Talking Points

**JOIN the House or Senate Impact Aid Coalition for the 117<sup>th</sup> 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.**