



National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

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TALKING POINTS: 2021 NAFIS FALL 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 district's unique financial situation given the federal ownership of land and your disproportionate reliance on state and federal funds.

- **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 – reference [NAFIS Impact Aid payments publications](#).**
- **Talk about your needs related to COVID and the financial reality of federally impacted school districts going forward. Remind them that COVID dollars were only a one-time investment and long-term funding is still needed in your 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.**
- **Be sure to keep the relationship going after your meeting – follow up with any information you promised, invite staff or Members of Congress to visit your school district, and keep emailing or calling with any relevant information.**

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

Funding

The current Fiscal Year (FY21) runs through September 30, 2021. NAFIS requested a \$102 million increase for FY22 (\$100 million for Basic Support and \$2 million for Federal Property). The House has passed their FY22 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education appropriations bill. It includes a \$51 million increase to Impact Aid (\$50 million for Basic Support and \$1 million for Federal Property). The Senate has not yet released any legislation.

Section	FY19 Final	FY20 Final	FY21 Final	FY22 NAFIS Request	FY22 House Bill
Federal Property	\$74,313,000	\$75,313,000	\$76,313,000	\$78,313,000	\$77,313,000
Basic Support	\$1,301,242,000	\$1,340,242,000	\$1,354,242,000	\$1,454,242,000	\$1,404,242,000
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
Total	\$1,446,112,000	\$1,486,112,000	\$1,501,112,000	\$1,603,112,000	\$1,552,112,000

Talking Points

- **Senate: 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.**
- **House: THANK them for the \$51 million increase in their FY22 bill.**
 - **Urge them to support at least the \$51 million increase in a final package.**
- **Talk about your financial needs – be specific about what an increase to Impact Aid could mean to your district.**

Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act

On Wednesday, September 15, H.R. 5255, the *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act* was introduced in the House. This legislation authorizes funding increases for Impact Aid over a five year glidepath. The bill will fully fund Basic Support, provide a proportional increase to Federal Property, and increase the Children with Disabilities payment to approximately \$2,000 per student (or \$1,000 for an off-base military student). The cost of \$1.1 billion is split over the five years and would be a \$210 million increase per year. NAFIS is hoping to introduce companion legislation in the Senate and is interested in gaining co-sponsors in both the House and Senate.

	Total Increase	Annual Funding in Five Year Glidepath
Basic Support	\$950,000,000.00	\$190,000,000.00
Federal Property	\$54,000,000.00	\$11,000,000.00
CWD	\$45,000,000.00	\$9,000,000.00
Total	\$1,049,000,000.00	\$210,000,000.00

Talking Points

- **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

Democrats are working on their latest budget reconciliation bill, which will include funding for K-12 school infrastructure. The House Education and Labor Committee has passed its segment of the bill, which includes \$82 billion for K-12 school infrastructure broadly as well as \$410.9 million for Impact Aid construction. The legislation also expands the eligibility for the Impact Aid construction formula dollars to include districts that are 20 percent or more Indian lands or military-connected students.

The bill would send the \$82 billion to states based on the Title I formula. States would then disseminate the money on a competitive basis and must prioritize funding to districts that serve the highest numbers or percentages of Title I students or have the most limited capacity to raise funds for the long-term improvement of public school facilities. This means federally impacted school districts are likely to be a high priority in many states.

The Senate is working on their version of the bill along with House staff. The goal is to get the bill finalized before releasing any additional information, so it is critical that you advocate for this funding now.

Talking Points

- **Republicans**
 - **Mention the need for infrastructure funding in your district.**
 - **Bring specific stories – share details and pictures if you have them.**
 - **Don't discuss the budget reconciliation plan – they won't be voting for it and may get agitated.**
- **House Democrats**
 - **Thank them for the robust funding in the Education and Labor bill – encourage them to support the K-12 infrastructure elements. Be supportive of both the Impact Aid provision and the broader K-12 school infrastructure funding.**
 - **If your district is more than 20% Indian lands or military-connected students, be sure to tell them that your district will receive formula funding – thank them for that investment.**
 - **Mention the need for infrastructure funding in your district.**
 - **Bring specific stories – share details and pictures if you have them.**
- **Senate Democrats**
 - **Ask them to support the House budget levels for school construction that includes \$410.9 million for Impact Aid construction and \$82 billion for K-12 school infrastructure.**
 - **If your district is more than 20% Indian lands or military-connected students, be sure to tell them that your district will receive formula funding – encourage that investment.**
 - **Mention the need for infrastructure funding in your district.**
 - **Bring specific stories – share details and pictures if you have them.**