



National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

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TALKING POINTS: 2025 NAFIS Spring Conference

Future of the U.S. Department of Education

It has been widely reported that President Trump is preparing an executive order to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education. While much remains unknown about exactly what this executive action would include, it is important to note that only Congress has the power to abolish the Department. Such legislation would require a supermajority of 60 votes in the Senate, meaning that at least seven Democratic senators would need to join all Republicans in support. However, an executive order could use existing administrative authority to weaken the Department.

Talking Points:

- **NAFIS opposes any attempt to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education and is deeply concerned by the Trump Administration's recent statements.**
- **Specifically, we are concerned that any reduction in staff at the Impact Aid office or transfer of authority over the program will negatively impact the program and staff's ability to disseminate payments in a timely manner and provide necessary technical assistance to school districts.**

Appropriations

With schools facing many challenges, including the need to build or renovate facilities, attract and retain educators, and adjust to recent education cuts, Impact Aid dollars are more precious now than they have ever been. In addition, experts project a decrease in the prorated payment for Section 7003 Basic Support due to the inclusion of COVID relief funding and inflation in payment calculations. That means that without a significant increase in appropriations or a legislative fix, some districts should prepare for lower Impact Aid payments in FY 2025 compared to FY 2024.

Talking Points:

- **THANK them for Congress's recent investments in the Impact Aid program.**
- **Fiscal Year 2025:**
 - **SUPPORT the Senate's \$20 million increase for Impact Aid in FY 2025:**
 - **\$16.5 million increase for Basic Support**
 - **\$2 million increase for Federal Property**
 - **\$1.5 million increase for Construction**
- **Fiscal Year 2026:**
 - **REQUEST an increase for Impact Aid in FY 2026:**
 - **\$65 million increase for Basic Support**
 - **\$1.5 million Increase for Children with Disabilities**
 - **\$3.5 million increase for Federal Property**
 - **\$1.5 million increase for Construction**
 - **SIGN ON to Dear Colleague Letter Supporting Impact Aid Funding**
 - **Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) – Katie Mertens - katie_mertens@lujan.senate.gov**
 - **Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA) – Sam Gottlieb - sam.gottlieb@mail.house.gov**
- **EXPLAIN how a possible cut to your Impact Aid payment would affect your budget.**

Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act

The Federal Government has a responsibility to fund Impact Aid fully, but it has not met this responsibility since 1969. This legislation would establish a five-year path to full funding and ensure meaningful annual increases to districts. The *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act* is historically bipartisan. It would fully fund Basic Support and provide a proportional increase to Federal Property, Construction, and Children with Disabilities.

Talking Points:

- **This bill has not yet been reintroduced, but if you are interested in cosponsoring, please contact:**
 - Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) – Katie Mertens - katie_mertens@lujan.senate.gov
 - Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA) – Eileen Lee - eileen.lee@mail.house.gov

Impact Aid Infrastructure Partnership Act

The current Impact Aid Construction line provides only \$19 million for construction annually, which is insufficient to meet most internal renovation needs and provides no funding to build new schools. There is also a significant demand for funding to renovate and construct teacher housing. The *Impact Aid Infrastructure Partnership Act* would add a total of \$250 million per year for four years to the Impact Aid Construction line item. 25% of the new funds would be made available via formula to all eligible school districts. The U.S. Department of Education would disseminate the remaining 75% as competitive grants, with priority for those school districts with acute emergencies in their facilities, teacher housing in need of repair, or limited or no bonding capacity.

Talking Points:

- **This bill has not yet been reintroduced, but if you are interested in cosponsoring, please contact:**
 - Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) – Ben Strand - ben_strand@hirono.senate.gov
 - Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) – Abigail Leonard - abigail.leonard@mail.house.gov

Congressional Impact Aid Caucus

The bipartisan and bicameral Congressional Impact Aid Caucus was established in the 1990s and has since led successful efforts to protect and prioritize the Impact Aid program. There are nearly 100 current Members of Congress in the caucus, and we hope to continue to grow these numbers. If you talk to a member who is not currently in the caucus, encourage them to join.

Talking Points:

- **JOIN the Congressional Impact Aid Caucus for the 119th Congress.**
- **It is an easy way to show your support for federally impacted schools and Impact Aid.**
- Contact JSchimmenti@nafisd.org to join.

Congressional Staff Briefing: Impact Aid 101

NAFIS is holding a congressional staff briefing during which Executive Director Nicole Russell will provide an overview of Impact Aid and explain why further federal investments are needed.

Talking Points:

- **ATTEND the Impact Aid 101 Lunch Briefing (or send a representative from your office)**
 - **Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2025**
 - **Time: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**
 - **Location: 2045 Rayburn HOB**
 - **Lunch will be provided**