



National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

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October 16, 2025

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Chair, Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chair, House Committee on Education
and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, Chair Walberg, and Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) and the approximately 1,100 federally impacted school districts we represent, I am writing to share our concern about recent staffing actions within the U.S. Department of Education's Impact Aid office and to urge continued congressional oversight of this vital federal program.

On October 10, 2025, in response to a directive from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to consider a reduction in force (RIF), the Department issued 60-day advance RIF notices to 14 employees in the Impact Aid office. We understand that no staff will be separated during this transition period and that duties will be streamlined and shifted among remaining staff when the federal government reopens. We also appreciate that the Department has indicated the program will remain under its current leadership and has reaffirmed its commitment to Impact Aid through the President's FY2026 budget request.

Despite these assurances, the issuance of RIF notices to most staff in the office raises serious concerns about the Department's long-term capacity to administer the Impact Aid program effectively. The Impact Aid office is staffed by highly skilled professionals who process applications, provide technical assistance, and ensure payments are distributed accurately and on time. Even the potential loss of this expertise could lead to delays, confusion, and financial strain for districts that depend on Impact Aid to make payroll, retain teachers, and sustain critical services.

Impact Aid is not supplemental—it fulfills a statutory obligation to support school districts that lose local tax revenue due to the presence of federal property. For 75 years, the program has represented a bipartisan and nonpartisan commitment to federally connected

children, including military-connected students, Native American students, and those living on or near federal lands.

We respectfully urge your Committees to:

1. Engage with the Department of Education and OMB to assess the potential impact of the planned RIF on the operations of the Impact Aid office;
2. Request a clear plan from the Department outlining how it will maintain continuity of services during and after the 60-day transition period; and
3. Reaffirm Congress's bipartisan commitment to the Impact Aid program and the students and communities it serves.

At a time when school districts are facing financial uncertainty and families are feeling the effects of a prolonged shutdown, maintaining stability in the Impact Aid program is essential. NAFIS stands ready to work with you to ensure that the Department of Education retains the capacity and expertise necessary to uphold the federal government's obligations to federally impacted school districts.

Thank you for your continued support for the students, educators, and communities that rely on Impact Aid.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cherise Imai".

Cherise Imai
Executive Director
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools