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## **NAFIS Applauds Increase for Impact Aid in FY 2026 Appropriations**

*Legislation signals continued support for federally impacted school districts*

**Washington, D.C. – February 4, 2026** – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) thanks Congress for passing a final FY 2026 education appropriation bill, which includes a \$5 million increase for Impact Aid. In a challenging budget climate where most education programs remain flat-funded, this funding boost represents a significant victory and reaffirms the federal commitment to supporting students in federally impacted school districts.

Impact Aid supports approximately 1,100 school districts educating nearly eight million students across the country. The program partially reimburses school districts for lost local revenue and increased costs associated with the presence of nontaxable federal property, including military installations, Indian trust and restricted lands, federal low-rent housing, national parks, and other federal holdings. Despite its vital role, Impact Aid has been underfunded for decades.

“This increase reflects strong, bipartisan support for Impact Aid,” said NAFIS Executive Director Cherise Imai. “Even in a difficult fiscal environment, Congress has recognized that supporting students connected to federal lands is a non-negotiable responsibility. For some communities, Impact Aid makes up more than half the school district’s budget. These funds are essential for teacher salaries and training, student mental health services, school construction, classroom programs, and more, ensuring students have the resources they need to succeed.”

NAFIS also welcomed legislative direction for the U.S. Department of Education to maintain adequate staffing to administer programs, including Impact Aid. Program analysts play a crucial role in processing payments and providing technical assistance, ensuring Impact Aid operates accurately, transparently, and with integrity.

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents approximately 1,100 federally impacted public school districts that together educate nearly eight million students across the nation.

Federally impacted school districts are those located on or near nontaxable Federal property, including military installations; Indian trust and restricted lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national parks, national laboratories, and other Federal buildings and property. These school districts receive Impact Aid, a Federal education program that reimburses school districts for the lost local revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of Federal property. To learn more, visit [www.nafisdc.org](http://www.nafisdc.org).