

# The Basics of Impact Aid

The Original K-12 Federal Education Program  
Title VII Every Student Succeeds Act



**National Association  
of Federally Impacted Schools**



Dear Reader:

The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) is pleased to share *The Basics of Impact Aid* with you.

Whether you are new to the Impact Aid Program or are more experienced, keep this booklet handy to help you navigate the intricacies of the Impact Aid program. *The Basics of Impact Aid* provides a general overview of the Impact Aid program and its funding history. The heart of the booklet is a section-by-section discussion of the key components of the Impact Aid program. Charts, graphs and formula calculations are included to help you better understand how the program and formulas work.

Federally Impacted school districts are demographically and geographically diverse, educating more than 11 million children across the United States. Established in 1972 as the Impacted Area Schools Information Service, and renamed the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) in 1983, NAFIS is the leading voice advocating for Impact Aid on behalf of federally impacted school districts and the children they serve. NAFIS is the umbrella organization for four sub-groups, Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (FLISA), National Indian Impacted Schools Association (NIISA), Mid-to-Low LOT Schools (MTLLS) and Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA). Together, NAFIS and these four sub-groups comprise the NAFIS Family.

On behalf of the NAFIS Family and the NAFIS staff, we hope you find value and refer regularly to *The Basics of Impact Aid*. Do not hesitate to contact the NAFIS office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Hilary Goldmann  
Executive Director

## THE NAFIS FAMILY

### **MISA**

Military Impacted  
Schools Association

### **NIISA**

National Indian Impacted  
Schools Association

### **FLISA**

Federal Lands Impacted  
Schools Association

### **MTLLS**

Mid-to-Low-LOT  
Schools



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# INTRODUCTION

The Impact Aid Program, signed into law by President Harry Truman in 1950, is the nation's oldest K-12 Federal education program. Nationwide, approximately 1,300 school districts enrolling more than 11 million students benefit from Impact Aid funding.

Today's Impact Aid Program had its beginnings in the early 1800s. Regulations were passed in 1821 to support the cost for schools to educate military-dependent children. The Johnson-O'Malley Act of 1934 identified that there were no local taxes to educate Native American children and provided funding for these children. This Act was the first acknowledgement by the Federal Government of its obligation to the local school district for educating children residing on Indian Lands. Additional pieces of legislation were passed in the late 1930s and early 1940s that were the precursor to the modern day Impact Aid Program established in 1950.

Funding for the program is approved annually by Congress through the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee Bill and the program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Impact Aid (originally referred to as PL. 81-874 and incorporated in 1994 into the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the updated Title VII of the Every Student Succeeds Act) reimburses school districts for the loss of local tax revenue due to the presence of the Federal Government. Federal activities reduce local taxes because Federal property is removed from the tax roll and/or the school district is educating students with no or reduced tax revenue associated with those students. Lost tax revenue includes residential taxes, property taxes from business or industry, sales taxes, income taxes and local licenses and fees.

## EXAMPLES OF FEDERAL IMPACTION

- Military installations
- Indian Trust, Treaty, and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Lands
- Federal low-rent housing facilities
- Federal properties such as national parks and Army Corps of Engineers projects and Federal facilities such as national laboratories, VA hospitals

Impact Aid funding is direct, locally controlled and flexible. All Impact Aid funds appropriated annually by Congress are disbursed directly to school districts – bypassing state involvement and can be used for any general fund purpose such as instructional materials, salaries, transportation, technology or capital needs. All decisions on how Impact Aid funds are spent are made locally by elected school boards. This flexibility and local control allows school district leaders to target funds supporting all students wherever the needs are greatest.

Each school district must submit an Impact Aid application annually to the U.S. Department of Education. The application deadline is usually January 31. The U.S. Department of Education reviews the applications and processes payments based on Congressional appropriations each fiscal year (October 1 - September 30). The Department allocates funding in multiple installments until all available funds are distributed. School district applications are audited, on average, once every five years.



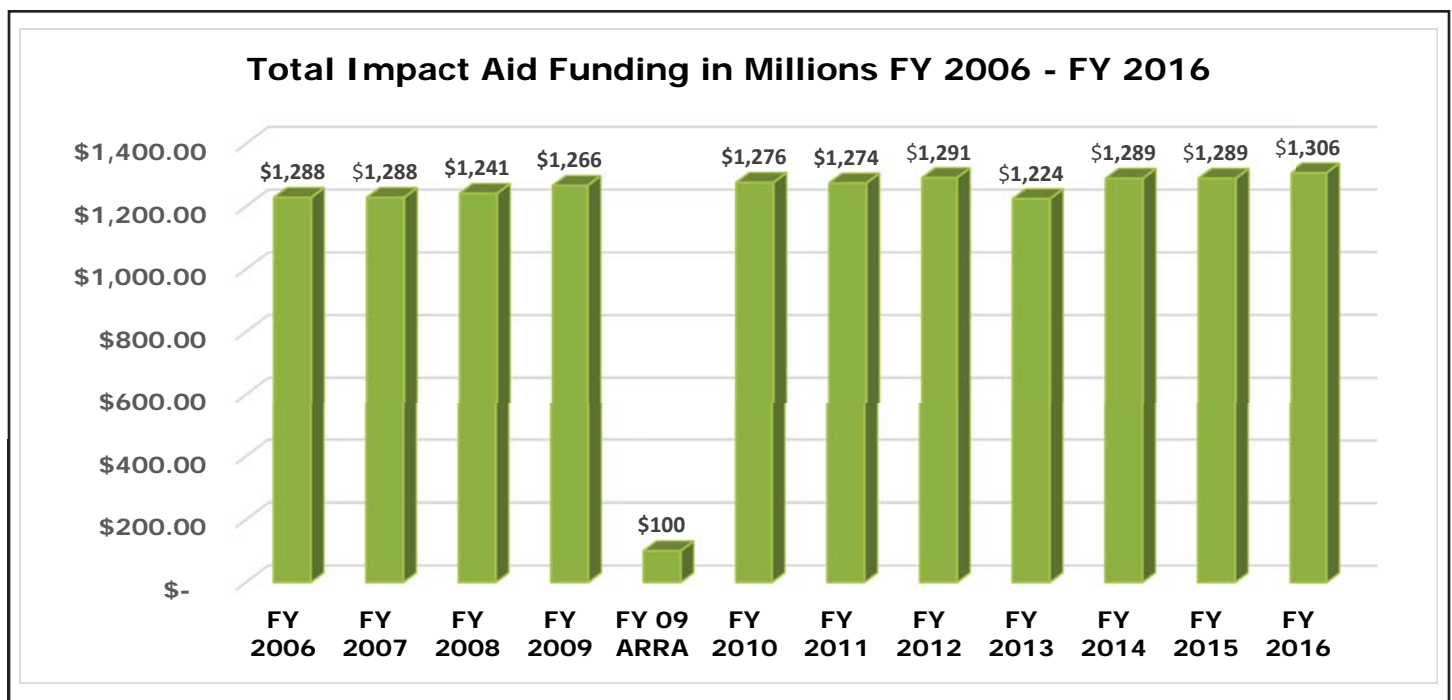


# IMPACT AID FUNDING

Impact Aid funding is appropriated annually by the U.S. Congress. The House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations subcommittees have jurisdiction over Impact Aid funding. The Program has not been fully funded since 1969. Below is recent funding history for Impact Aid:

## Recent Section-by-Section Funding (in millions)

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
<b>Federal Property</b>	\$66.81	\$66.81	\$66.81
<b>Basic Support</b>	\$1,151.23	\$1,151.23	\$1,168.23
<b>Disability Payments</b>	\$48.32	\$48.32	\$48.32
<b>Construction</b>	\$17.41	\$17.41	\$17.41
<b>Facilities</b>	\$4.84	\$4.84	\$4.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,288.61</b>	<b>\$1,288.61</b>	<b>\$1,305.60</b>



The Impact Aid Program is the only K-12, Federal education program that is not forward funded. For example, FY 2016 funds for programs like Title I and IDEA are for the 2016-2017 school year, but for Impact Aid they are for the 2015-2016 school year. This means a delay in appropriations - caused by a Continuing Resolution (CR) or government shutdown - has an immediate impact on Impact Aid-recipient school districts. Without a payment early in the school year, some districts may have difficulty funding day-to-day operations, instructional expenditures, utility payments, or payroll. Occasionally, due to cash flow deficits, school districts must defer payroll, dip into their fund balances, or borrow money while they await their Impact Aid payment.

The \$67.5 million sequester of Impact Aid in FY 2013 had a devastating impact on federally impacted schools. As one of the first programs to be cut, district leaders were forced to make tough choices including reductions in staff, increased class sizes, cuts to afterschool and arts programs, reduced professional development, fewer bus routes, and delays in technology upgrades and facilities maintenance. While a near-full restoration of Impact Aid in FY 2014 and a \$17 million increase in FY 2016 were welcome relief, funding caps on discretionary spending continue to concern federally impacted schools.

***“ Impact Aid is our life blood, the primary support for our excellent program providing students the education they deserve.***

***Without it we would have to reduce staff and services by 40 percent. ”***

# SCHOOL FINANCE

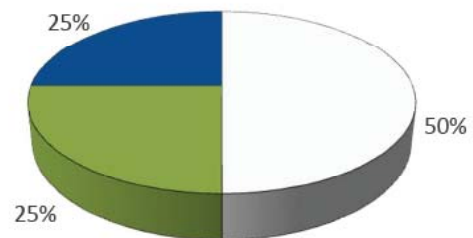
## Financing Non-Federally Impacted School Districts

U.S. public schools are financed through a combination of state and local revenue. Usually 50-percent of a school district's funding is derived from state aid and 50-percent is derived from local funding. Local funding sources are comprised of a combination of business and residential property taxes and fees, and local sales tax.

## Financing Federally Impacted School Districts

Federally impacted school districts receive state funding, the same as non-federally impacted schools. It is the local funding share that is reduced or eliminated because of a Federal presence that is not taxable. School districts with Federal lands, military installations, Federal low-rent housing or Indian Trust Land within their boundaries lose local revenue because of these non-taxable Federal activities. Impact Aid funding partially reimburses school districts for this loss of locally-derived revenue.

Revenue Sources for Non-Federally Impacted School Districts



□ State Aid      ■ Taxes on Local Business  
■ Taxes on Local Homes

Impact Aid is  
"Uncle Sam"  
paying his  
taxes



# IMPACT AID

## SECTION-BY-SECTION

### SECTION 7002 FEDERAL PROPERTY

*Section 7002 reimburses school districts that have lost significant local revenue due to Federal ownership of land within school district boundaries. School districts are dependent on local property taxes as their major revenue source to fund educational programs for the children they serve. Because federally owned property does not generate taxes, the revenue for the school district is dramatically reduced. These school districts are required to educate the same number of students as before the Federal property was taken. Impact Aid Federal Property Payments offset some of the tax loss school districts experience on an annual basis.*

Approximately 240 school districts are eligible under Section 7002 each year.

#### Examples of Eligible Federal Properties

- National parks and grasslands
- National laboratories
- Army Corps of Engineers projects
- Military testing grounds
- Expansions of military installations
- Environmental waste sites

#### Eligibility

There are two eligibility criteria for a school district to be eligible for Section 7002:

1. The property was acquired by the Federal Government after 1938 AND
2. The assessed valuation of the property, when it was acquired by the Federal Government, is at least 10-percent of the school district's total assessed value. For example, if in 1939 the Federal Government acquires seven percent of the assessed value of Federal property in the district and then acquires an additional four percent in 1943, the school district would become eligible for an Impact Aid payment in 1943.

In addition, the property cannot have been acquired by exchange for other Federal property. To be eligible, the school district is not being substantially compensated by increases in revenues from Federal activities from the property.

## Determination of Section 7002 Payments

School districts must submit an application for payment to the U.S. Department of Education each year. The formula for valuing eligible Federal property was changed beginning in Fiscal Year 2013. As a result, each school district receives a Foundation Payment based on a percentage of funds they received under the previous system. Remaining funding is distributed based on the value of taxable property within school district boundaries, as well as the local tax rate.

There are Three Steps to Determine a School District's Maximum Payment

### Step 1:

$$\frac{\text{Total assessed value of taxable property}}{\text{Number of acres less the 7002 acres}} = \text{Average dollar-per-acre of taxable property}$$

### Step 2:

$$\text{Average dollar-per-acre of taxable property} \times \text{Number of eligible Federal acres} = \text{Value of Federal property}$$

### Step 3:

$$\text{Value of Federal property} \times \text{Local Tax Rate} = \text{Maximum payment}$$

Section 7002 is underfunded; the level of appropriations meets only 11-percent of the program's need based on what it would require to fund each school districts maximum payment. As a result, the available funding after the foundation payments are made is equally prorated based on each school district's maximum payment as a percentage of the total program cost.

## Did you know . . .

**Department of Defense and  
Bureau of Indian Education  
Schools don't receive Impact Aid.  
They aren't public schools.**



## SECTION 7003 BASIC SUPPORT PAYMENTS FOR FEDERALLY CONNECTED CHILDREN

*Basic Support Payments for federally connected children compensate school districts for educating students whose parents or legal guardians reside and/or work on Federal property, including children of members of the uniformed services, and children who reside on Indian Lands. Section 7003 is the largest component of the Impact Aid Program, both in regard to funding and to number of school districts.*

*A school district can choose one or both of the following two options to count its students:*

- 1. Parent Pupil Survey: A U.S. Department of Education-approved form for counting the school district's federally connected children. The school district provides a form to parents for each enrolled child. The parent-pupil survey form is a means of authenticating the child's place of residence and the parent's place of employment.*
- 2. Source Check - A U.S. Department of Education-approved means of counting the membership of a school district's federally connected children. It is provided to: 1) a parent's employer, who identifies the place of employment of a parent of a pupil claimed; 2) to a housing official, who indicates the residence of each pupil claimed; and 3) to a tribal official, who states each pupil claimed resides on Indian Lands over which that tribal official has jurisdiction.*

## Did you know . . .

**Some school districts meet the eligibility requirements for both Sections 7002 and 7003. In the cases where school districts are receiving a payment under both Sections, the combined payment cannot be greater than the higher of the two maximum payments.**

## Eligibility

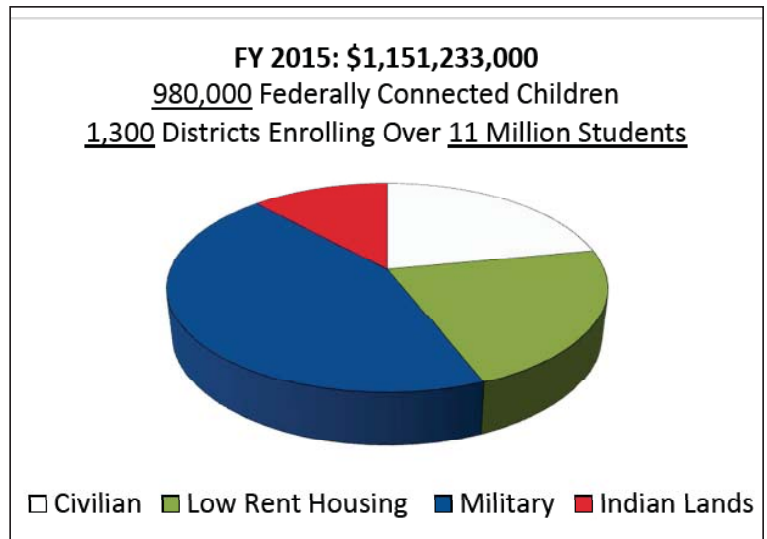
To be eligible for a Basic Support Payment, a school district must educate at least 400 Federal students in average daily attendance (ADA), or have at least a three-percent ADA of Federal students.

## Federally Connected Children

Those children whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) reside and/or work on Federal property are considered federally connected. The law recognizes as eligible:

- **Indian Land** - Children whose parent(s) live on Indian trust, treaty land or ANSCA land (1.25 weight).
- **Military on-base** - Children whose parent(s) are members of the uniformed services and reside on a military installation, including children of foreign military officers (1.0 weight).
- **Military off-base** - Children whose parent(s) are members of the uniformed services but who reside off the military installation, including children of foreign military officers (.20 weight).
- **Low rent housing** - Children whose parents reside in Federal low rent housing (not Section 8 housing) (.10 weight).
- **Civilian** - Children whose parent(s) both live AND work on Federal property (1.0 calculation)
- **Civilian whose parent works OR lives on Federal property\*** - Children whose parent(s) resides on Federal property, but works on taxable land OR children whose parent(s) resides on taxable land, but works on Federal property (.05 weight).

\*Civilian students can only be calculated into a school district's payment if there are 1,000 or more ADA in the school district, OR they represent at least 10-percent of the school district's ADA.

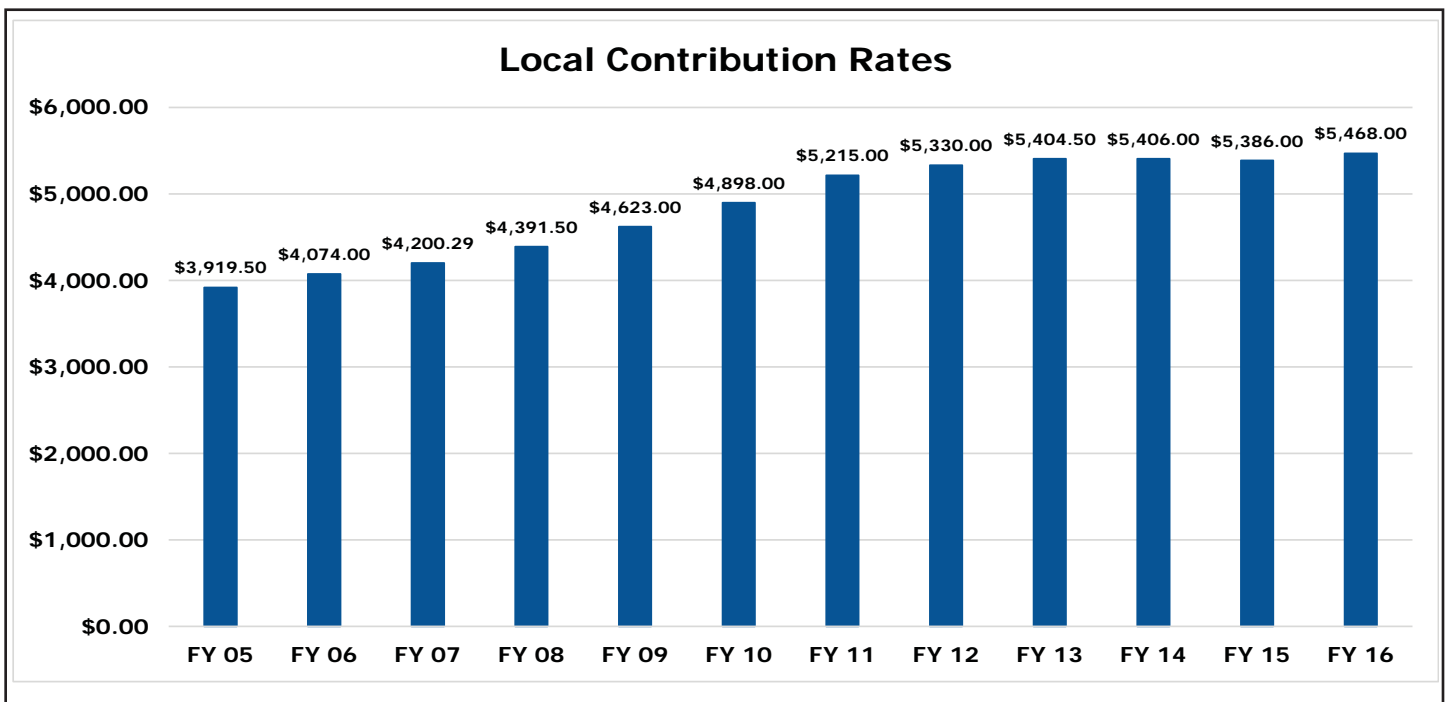


## Local Contribution Rate

There are three factors that determine a district's payment:

1. The Local Contribution Rate (LCR)
2. The number of Weighted Federal Student Units (WFSUs)
3. Congressional Appropriations

The Basic Support formula is derived from the premise that 50-percent of the cost of educating a child comes from state funding and 50-percent - the Federal presence - comes from local revenue. The term used to compute the local loss as measured by per-pupil expenditure is called the "Local Contribution Rate" or LCR.



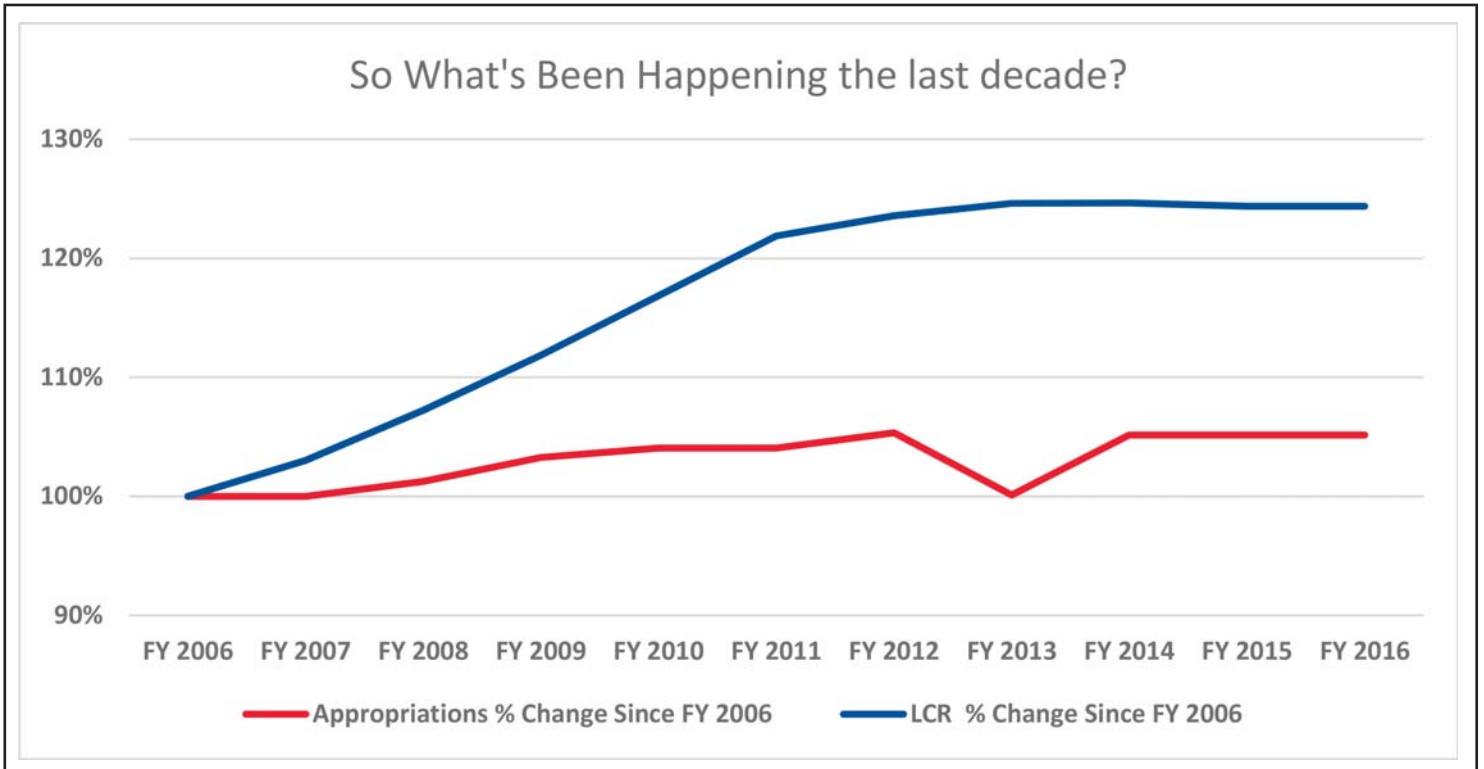
There are four ways a school district can calculate the Local Contribution Rate (LCR). A school district may choose the LCR which yields the highest amount.

1. 50-percent of the state average per-pupil expenditure or
2. 50-percent of the national per-pupil expenditure or
3. The average percentage of local revenue that makes up the average per-pupil expenditure in the state or
4. The use of comparable school district per-pupil expenditures

The data used to compute the LCR is based on data three years prior to the fiscal year for which the payments are calculated. For example, Fiscal Year 2016 (school year 2015-2016) payments will be based on data compiled for Fiscal Year 2013 (school year 2012-2013).



Since per-pupil expenditures change each year, the LCR will change each year as well, reflecting real changes in the costs of education. If the appropriations for Basic Support Payments do not keep pace with the percentage change in the LCR, payments to districts will fall behind, widening the margin of the unmet need. The graph below illustrates how stagnant appropriations widen the gap of unmet need.



*“Even with Impact Aid and higher tax rates, we receive fewer dollars per student than any district in our region. We stretch each dollar for our students.*

*For us, Impact Aid is a basic necessity helping cover essential underfunded services like special education, transportation, facilities and operating costs.”*

## Determining a School District's Section 7003 Maximum Payment

There are two steps to determine a school district's maximum payment:

Step 1 - multiply the number of Federal students in (ADA) by their respective weights to determine the total Weighted Federal Student Units (WFSUs); Step 2 - multiply the school district's total WFSUs by the LCR.

### Example

TYPE OF STUDENT	# FED. STUDENTS	X WEIGHT	= TOTAL WEIGHTED FED. STUDENT UNITS
Indian Land	100	1.25	125
Military on-base	100	1.00	100
Military off-base	100	0.20	20
Low Rent Housing	100	0.10	10
Civilian whose parent works OR lives on federal property only	100	0.05	5
<b>District Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>260</b>

TOTAL WEIGHTED FED. STUDENT UNITS	X LCR	= MAXIMUM PAYMENT
260	\$5,386	\$1,400,360

## Did you know . . .

Students living on private property due to military on-base or Indian housing renovation can be included in a school district's count if those students are temporarily displaced due to a federally initiated, certified housing renovation.



## Determining a School District’s Actual Payment

- The Impact Aid funding calculations are complicated **ONLY** because the program is **not fully funded (it hasn’t been since 1969)**. Currently, the Basic Support Program is funded at about 55-percent of need, leaving a 45-percent unmet need and therefore, a formula was developed by Congress to fairly distribute the available funds.
- Payments are reduced and distributed on a “needs-based” formula, not simply prorated. School districts more dependent on funds receive a higher proportion of their maximum payment than those not as financially dependent on Impact Aid.
- The **“Learning Opportunity Threshold,”** or **LOT**, is the percentage that indicates how dependent a school district is on Impact Aid funds—the higher the LOT percentage, the closer the LOT payment is to the Maximum Basic Support Payment.
- To determine a school district’s LOT percentage, add:
 

The percentage of Federal students in ADA	+	The percentage the Maximum Basic Support Payment is of the district’s total current expenditures (TCE)
-------------------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
- Each school district has its own LOT percentage, ranging from one-percent - 100-percent. As long as the appropriations are sufficient to fund LOT at 100 percent, a 100 percent LOT district will receive its Maximum Basic Support Payment.

Over the past decade, appropriated levels have not kept pace with increasing education costs resulting in districts receiving an increasingly lower percentage of their calculated need-based payment (a percentage of a district’s maximum payment). The payout fell below 100-percent in FY 2011 (see chart), meaning even the highest-needs districts - those with a 100-percent LOT - did not receive their Maximum Basic Support Payment.

DEPT. OF ED PAYMENT LEVEL	
<b>FY 2008</b>	136.930% of LOT
<b>FY 2009</b>	129.870% of LOT
<b>FY 2010</b>	115.524% of LOT
<b>FY 2011</b>	97.066% of LOT
<b>FY 2012</b>	96.109% of LOT
<b>FY 2013</b>	87.0611% of LOT
<b>FY 2014</b>	90%-93% of LOT*
<b>FY 2015</b>	91%-94% of LOT*

\* Represents estimated final rates.

## Example

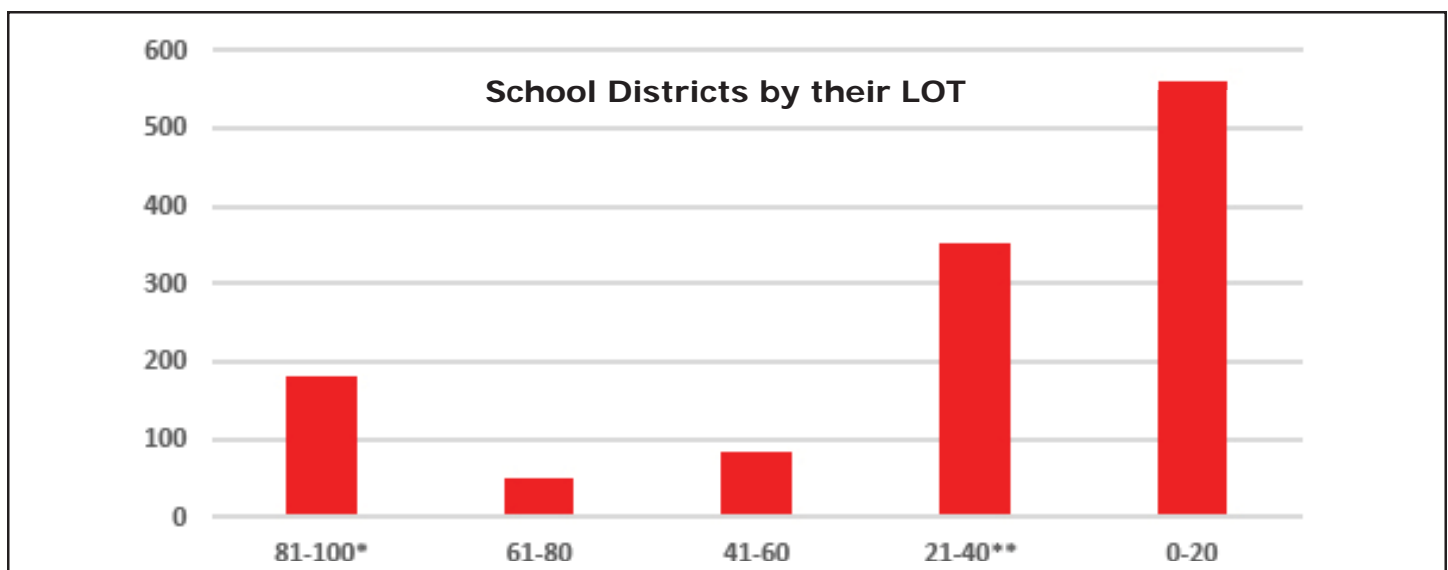
LOT CALCULATION	SCHOOL DISTRICT "1"	SCHOOL DISTRICT "2"
Total ADA	1,200	1,200
Total Fed. ADA	650	50
Total Current Expenditure	\$6,000,000	\$9,000,000
Maximum Basic Support Payment	\$4,376,125	\$336,625
Percent Federal Students	54 percent	4.2 percent
Percent Maximum Basic Support Payment of TCE	73 percent	3.8 percent
<b>LOT Percentage*</b>	100 percent	8 percent

\*LOT Percentage is never higher than 100-percent.

LOT PAYMENT	SCHOOL DISTRICT "1"	SCHOOL DISTRICT "2"
(LOT Percentage X BSP)	\$4,376,125	\$26,930

### Summary:

- District "1" has a LOT of 100-percent since 54-percent of its students are Federal and 73-percent of its total budget is based on its Basic Support Payment (LOT cannot exceed 100-percent). This is an example of one school district that receives 100-percent of its BSP, as long as the funding level is sufficient to pay districts 100 percent of their LOT payment.
- District "2" has a LOT of eight-percent because Federal students make up only 4.2-percent of its ADA and the BSP makes up only 3.8-percent of its operating budget.



\*146 school districts have a LOT percentage of 100-percent, the highest "needs factor."

\*\*237 school districts have a LOT percentage of 40-percent, including those eligible for the Small School Adjustment.

## Small School Adjustment

School districts with a total student enrollment of fewer than 1,000 students in ADA and have a per-pupil expenditure less than the state or national average per-pupil expenditure qualify for an automatic 40-percent LOT. The Small School Adjustment, was added to the law in 2000, and applies to about 233 school districts nationwide; about 133 of them are in Oklahoma.

*“ In our remote rural area, Impact Aid is essential to support our entire transportation department.*

*Without Impact Aid we would not be able to run our buses and without the bus runs, we would have to close down the school.”*

## SECTION 7003 (B)(2)-HEAVILY IMPACTED DISTRICTS

*Districts qualify for additional funding if they meet the following criteria:*

*Districts qualify for additional funding if they meet three criteria related to local tax effort, per pupil expenditures, and percentage of federally connected students. Approximately 30 school districts meet this criteria each year. Approximately 30 districts meet this criteria each year.*

## SECTION 7003 (D) - CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

*Payments are made to school districts for the additional costs associated with educating military and Indian Lands students with disabilities, identified as those with an active Individualized Education Program. Funding has to be spent on an IDEA-eligible activity.*

There are several steps for computing a district's 8003(d) payment:

### Step 1

- Determine the number of Federal Disability Units:
  - ADA of children with disabilities who reside on Indian Land;
  - ADA of military children with disabilities who reside on Federal land;
  - 1/2 the ADA of military children w/disabilities that do not reside on Federal land

### Step 2

- Add up all the nationwide Federal Disability Units from all school districts

### Step 3

- Divide the appropriation for 7003 (d) by the nationwide total to determine per-unit payment

### Step 4

- Multiply the district's number of Federal Disability Units by the per-pupil payment

## **Example**

School District has:

- 50 Indian Land students with disabilities
- 15 Military students with disabilities living on Federal land
- 40\* Military students with disabilities not living on Federal land

The district has 85 Federal Disability Units:  $50 + 15 + 20$  (40/2).

If the total 7003 (d) appropriation is \$48,000,000 and the nationwide total of disability units is 43,000, then the per unit payment is \$1,116.28 ( $\$48,000,000 / 43,000$ )

The school districts total Children with Disabilities payment is:

$$85 \times 1,116.28 = \$94,883.72$$

## **SECTION 7004 - POLICIES AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO CHILDREN RESIDING ON INDIAN LANDS**

*School districts with children residing on Indian Lands must establish Indian Policies and Procedures (IPPs) to ensure the school district meets certain requirements.*

- A school district's IPP must include the following five requirements:
  1. Indian Lands children are allowed to participate in programs on an equal basis as non-Indian Lands children.
  2. Parents of Indian Lands children and the Tribes have the opportunity to present their views on school district programs and to make recommendations on the school's program.
  3. Parents of Indian Lands children and Tribes are consulted and involved in planning the school program.
  4. Plans, evaluations, and applications of these programs are disseminated to the parents and Tribes.
  5. Parents and Tribes have an opportunity to present their views on the job the local school district is doing.
  
- The U.S. Department of Education has eight criteria to evaluate each school district's IPPs:
  1. Specify how the Tribes and parents can communicate to ensure an equal opportunity for Indian Lands Students to participate.
  2. Describe how an LEA will assess the extent of equal opportunity.
  3. Outline how the LEA will make changes to allow equal participation.
  4. State how the LEA will send information out to the Tribe and parents. Information will include the Impact Aid application, the evaluation of programs funded with Impact Aid, and any plans for programs that may be starting or ending.
  5. Show how the Tribe or parents can present their views.
  6. Describe how the LEA will involve the Tribe and parents in developing programs.
  7. Describe how the LEA gives the Tribe and parents an opportunity to make recommendations and offer opinions about the LEA and its operations and programs.
  8. Specify a time and method to review IPPs annually, including a review of input from the Tribe and parents, and the LEA's response to the input.

## **IPP Approval**

- If a Tribe or designee feels the school district is not following these requirements, the Tribe or designee may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education. The Department will then conduct a hearing on the complaint, and all parties may present evidence and recommendations for corrective action. The Department will then issue a decision as to what remedial action (if any) needs to be taken by the school district.
- If the school district rejects the Department's recommendation, all Section 7003 funds may be withheld from the school district the following year. This would happen only in extreme cases. If this does occur, then the Tribe may request the Bureau of Indian Affairs provide services for the children. However, children may choose to stay with the school and not go to the BIA school. These children may then be counted for Impact Aid again by the school district.
- This entire process, however, including the requirement for local policies and annual activities, is not required if the Tribe sends a written statement to the local school. This statement would need to say the school does not need to comply with these requirements because the Tribe is satisfied with the educational services provided by the school to the Indian Lands children.

## **SECTION 7005 - APPLICATION**

*Section 7005 refers to the Impact Aid application procedure. A school district that wants to receive Impact Aid under either Section 7002 or 7003 must submit an application and provide a copy to the state educational agency. The application must contain information to determine eligibility, and where applicable, that the school district is in compliance with Section 7004. The Secretary of Education establishes the application deadline under this section.*

## **SECTION 7006**

*Payments for Sudden and Substantial Increases in Attendance of Military Dependent (REPEALED).*

## **SECTION 7007 - CONSTRUCTION**

*Payments for districts to meet capital or construction needs of Federal students. Section 7007 is one of very few Federal construction programs.*

*There are two different allocations of the 7007 appropriation money: 60-percent is dedicated for competitive grants and the other 40-percent is allocated in formula payments to eligible school districts.*



## SECTION 7007(A) - CONSTRUCTION FORMULA GRANTS

### Eligibility

School districts are eligible if they receive funds under 7003 (b) (Basic Support) and the school district has at least one of the following:

- 50-percent or more Indian Land students
- 50-percent or more military students
- Receives funds from 7003 (b)(2) (heavily impacted)

### Payment

- Determine the total number of Indian Land and Military weighted students in all these eligible LEAs.
- Divide 50-percent of the total appropriation for 7007 Formula Construction by the total number of Indian Land WFSU and 50-percent of the 7007 appropriation Formula Construction by the number of Military WFSU in all 7007 eligible LEAs to determine the per-weighted unit payment for each type of student.
- Multiply your WFSU for each type of student times the per-unit payment for each type of student.

These funds may be used for:

- Preparation of drawings/specs for facilities
- Acquiring, building, remodeling, repairing, or extending school facilities
- Inspecting or supervising construction facilities
- Debt service

There is no time limitation during which these funds must be expended, and thus they may be saved for a future project.

### Example:

The example is based on the following assumptions: 1) The nationwide total of Section 7007 eligible schools is 95,900 Indian Land WFSUs and 46,700 Military WFSUs, (2) Total 7007 (a) appropriation is \$17,406,000, (3) The school district has 250 students on Indian Trust Land, 80 Military students living on-base, and 300 military off-base students.

#### Step 1

- This district has **312.5** Indian Land WFSU ( $250 \times 1.25$ ) and **140** Military WFSU ( $80 \times 1.0 + 300 \times 0.20$ )

#### Step 2

- With a \$17,406,000 appropriation, the per-WFSU payment for Indian Lands is \$90.75 ( $\$8,703,000/95,900$ ) and the per-WFSU payment for military is \$186.36 ( $\$8,703,000/46,700$ ).

### Step 3

- The district's 8007(a) payment is:  
**\$28,359.38** (312.5 Indian WFSU x \$90.75)
- + **\$26,090.40** (140 Military WFSU x \$186.36)
- \$54,449.78**

## SECTION 7007(B) - DISCRETIONARY COMPETITIVE GRANTS

- **Eligibility** – Any district at least 40-percent impacted with Indian Land or military-dependent students may apply on behalf of the local educational agency. In addition, an individual school site (facility) may also apply if the enrollment of either Indian Land or military dependent students equals or exceeds 40-percent of the school's total enrollment.
- **Additional Eligibility Requirements** – The local educational agency or the school, will be prioritized based on its ability to generate local funding (bonding/ state funding) and if it has a school facility emergency as determined by the Secretary.
- **Funding Priority** – Those grants submitted as "Emergency Requests" will be given first priority. "Modernization Grants" are also awarded should funds still be available after all emergency awards have been made.
- **Matching Requirements** – The Federal contribution for both emergency and modernization grants cannot exceed 50-percent of the cost of the project, nor can it be more than \$4,000,000 during any four-year period. (**Note:** *This requirement does not apply to a district that does not have the authority to tax or issue bonds.*)

## SECTION 7008 - FACILITIES

*Payments for upkeep and repair of school buildings owned by the U.S. Department of Education used by local school districts.*

# Did you know . . .

**Because of funding limitations, Section 7007 appropriations alternate each year between construction formula grants and construction competitive grants**



- Approximately 12 buildings are owned by the US Department of Education, down from 50. Once buildings are modernized/up to code, the transfer of ownership to the local school district takes place.

## **SECTION 7009 - EQUALIZATION**

*States are prohibited from reducing state aid to a federally connected school district because of its receipt of Federal Impact Aid funding. Impact Aid is considered “outside” of a state’s school finance formula and a state may not take into account Impact Aid funding. There is an exemption, however, from this provision called “equalization.” If a state has a school finance formula designed to equalize expenditures for all school districts in that state, and if the state meets several other criteria, the state can reduce the amount of state funding allocated to a particular school district based on its Impact Aid payment. There are currently three states that are equalized: Alaska, Kansas and New Mexico.*

- Only if certified as “equalized” by the U.S. Department of Education can a state reduce the amount of state aid to a school district because the district receives Impact Aid.
- To be considered “equalized,” a state must demonstrate that for 90-percent of the students in the state, the amount of money spent per student does not vary by more than 25-percent.
  - The per-pupil expenditure of the school at the 95th percentile of ADA (size) is compared to the per-pupil expenditure at the fifth percentile of ADA. If this disparity is greater than 25-percent, then the state is not allowed to deduct state aid to Impact Aid schools because they receive Impact Aid.
  - If the disparity is 25-percent or less, then the state is allowed to deduct from state aid to the school district an amount based upon a percentage of Impact Aid receipts. This percentage is the percentage of local funds covered under a state’s equalization program.
- States are prohibited from implementing deducts until they have been certified by the Department of Education. If a state does so without certification, then the schools may apply for relief in Federal court.

## **SECTION 7010 - PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

*Provides the Secretary with authority when administering each provision of the program to round all payments to the nearest whole dollar amount. All agencies on federally owned land must comply with the Secretary for any information the Secretary might need to carry out Impact Aid payments. Addresses the eligibility of students who live in one state, but due to factors unique to the situation attending school in an adjacent state is more practical.*

## **SECTION 7011 - ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS/JUDICIAL REVIEW**

*By law, any school district adversely affected by an action of the Secretary of Education is allowed to have a judicial hearing on the matter. The court shall have exclusive jurisdiction to affirm the action of the Secretary or to set it aside, in whole or in part.*

## **SECTION 7012 - FORGIVENESS OF OVERPAYMENTS**

*Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may forgive the obligation of a local school district to repay, in whole or in part, the amount of any overpayment received if the Secretary determines the overpayment was made as a result of an error made by the Secretary; or the local educational agency and repayment of the full amount of the overpayment will result in undue financial hardship on the agency and seriously harm the agency's educational program.*

## **SECTION 7013-DEFINITIONS**

*This section defines commonly used terms in other parts of the law. Some of these include armed forces, average per-pupil expenditure, construction, current expenditures, Federal property, local contribution percentage, local educational agency, low-rent housing, modernization, revenue derived from local sources, and school facilities.*

## **SECTION 7014 - AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**

*This section provides the authorization for Congress to fund the Impact Aid program. There is no limit as to how much the Appropriations Committees can at their discretion fund each provision of the Impact Aid Program. Congress has the authority to fully fund each provision.*

**“ Impact Aid is critical for our school district. Funds are used for teachers, textbooks, and technology.**

**Lost property taxes not paid by the Federal Government end up as the local taxpayers' bill.”**

# IMPACT AID SELF QUIZ

## IMPACT AID QUIZ

**Please write your answer in the blank space provided (True or False)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Impact Aid provides funds to school districts for general operating expenses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. School districts that want to receive Impact Aid payments must file an application for these funds each year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. School districts that receive Section 7002 funds receive these funds based upon the number and type of the Federal students attending the school district.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Section 7003 (b) funds are distributed to school districts that have at least 400 Federal children in average daily attendance (ADA) or at least three-percent of the ADA is comprised of Federal children.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Under Section 7003 (b), Federal students are assigned weights that reflect the degree of impaction these students have on the local schools as determined by Congress.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Average Daily Attendance (ADA) is defined as the actual enrollment of students in the school district.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The law provides for four methods that can be used to determine the Local Contribution Rate (LCR).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Depending upon state law, Impact Aid funds may be used for capital improvement or construction.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. All Federal students with disabilities may qualify for additional Impact Aid funds under Section 7003 (d).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. School districts that claim students residing on Indian Lands must have Indian Policies and Procedures in place, that gives the Tribes veto power over how the Impact Aid funds are used.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. The student weight for students residing on Indian Lands is higher than the weights for military or low rent housing students.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Students residing on Indian Lands that are not Native American can generate Impact Aid funds for the school district.

## IMPACT AID QUIZ (CONT'D)

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. If there are not enough funds to pay all the 7003 (b) Basic Support Payments, all schools receive a payment based upon equal proration.

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. The two factors used to determine a school district's need for 7003 (b) Basic Support Payments are: 1) the percentage of Federal students in ADA and; 2) the percentage of the general operating expenditures that the maximum payment represents.

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. School districts that qualify for Section 7002, base their payment calculations on the value of the land when it was taken off the tax roles by the Federal Government.

\_\_\_\_\_ 16. For Basic Support Payments (7003 (b)), students who reside off Federal property and whose parents are civilians employed on Federal property may be counted if these students number at least 1,000 ADA and/or these students represent at least 10-percent of the total ADA of the school district.

\_\_\_\_\_ 17. The LOT percentage is the degree of "need", as defined by Congress, that a school district has for Impact Aid funds, with the highest "need" at 100-percent.

\_\_\_\_\_ 18. States are not allowed to reduce state aid to an Impact Aid district unless the state has been approved to do so by the US Department of Education.

\_\_\_\_\_ 19. Impact Aid payments are first sent to the State Education Agency, and the SEA distributes the funds to eligible LEAs within the state.

\_\_\_\_\_ 20. Section 7002 property is eligible if it was acquired by the Federal Government later than 1935.

\_\_\_\_\_ 21. Section 7002 payments are based on a percentage of local and industry taxes.

\_\_\_\_\_ 22. A school district with 75-percent Federal students and a budget comprised of 50-percent Impact Aid, would have a LOT percent of 125-percent.



## ANSWER SHEET

1. T
2. T
3. F
4. T
5. T
6. F
7. T
8. T
9. F
- 10.F
- 11.T
- 12.T
- 13.F
- 14.T
- 15.F
- 16.T
- 17.T
- 18.T
- 19.F
- 20.F
- 21.F
- 22.F

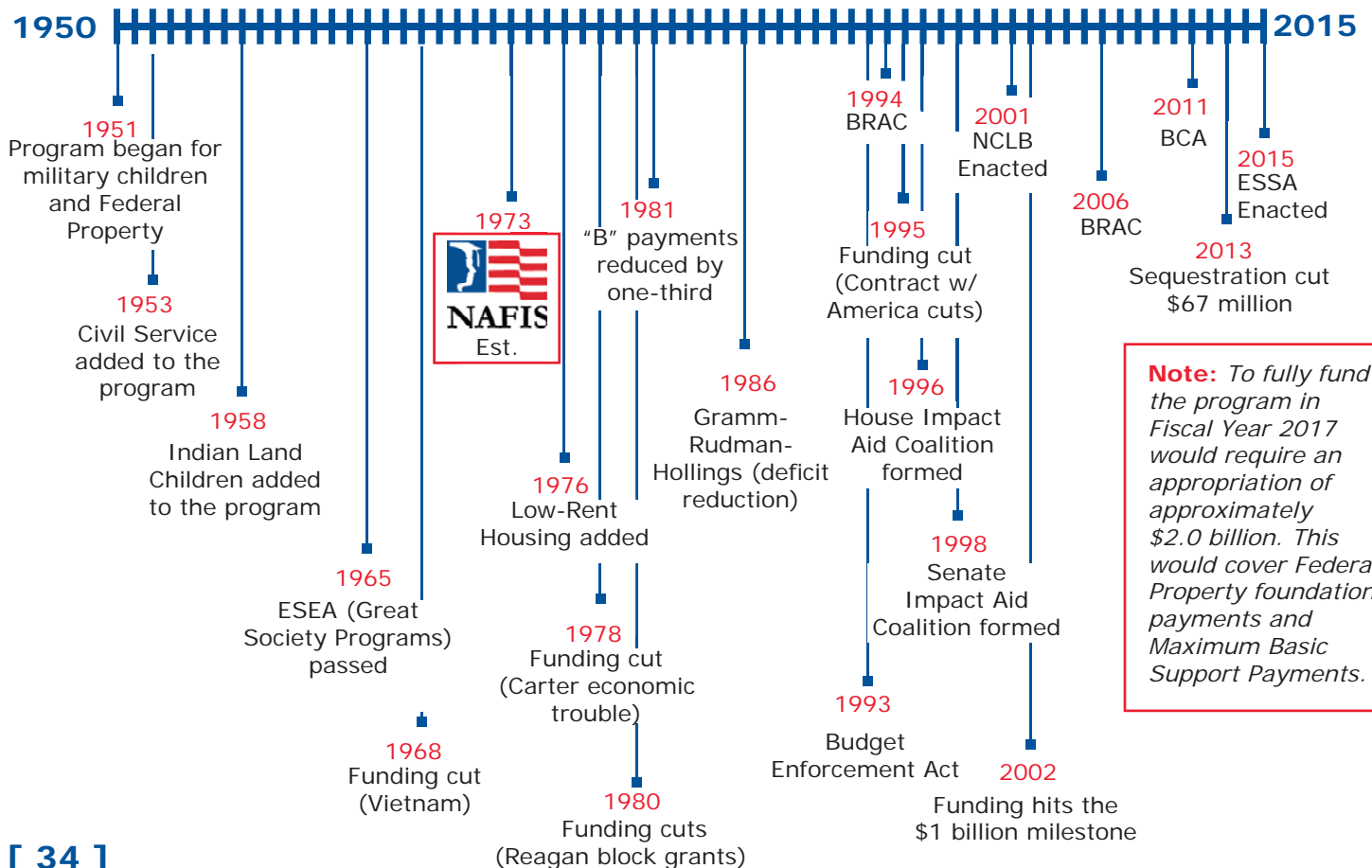


# APPENDIX

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# HISTORY OF IMPACT AID FUNDING

YEAR	DOLLAR LEVEL	YEAR	DOLLAR LEVEL	YEAR	DOLLAR LEVEL	YEAR	DOLLAR LEVEL
1951	\$29,080,788	1968	\$406,355,000	1985	\$665,000,000	2002	\$1,143,500,000
1952	\$51,570,000	1969	\$505,900,000	1986	\$634,405,000	2003	\$1,188,226,000
1953	\$60,500,000	1970	\$507,700,000	1987	\$685,000,000	2004	\$1,229,526,739
1954	\$72,350,000	1971	\$536,068,000	1988	\$685,498,000	2005	\$1,243,861,856
1955	\$75,350,000	1972	\$592,580,000	1989	\$709,396,000	2006	\$1,228,453,380
1956	\$90,000,000	1973	\$535,495,000	1990	\$717,354,000	2007	\$1,228,453,000
1957	\$113,050,000	1974	\$574,416,000	1991	\$740,708,000	2008	\$1,240,718,000
1958	\$127,000,000	1975	\$636,016,000	1992	\$743,708,000	2009	\$1,265,718,000
1959	\$157,362,000	1976	\$730,000,000	1993	\$738,250,000	2010	\$1,276,183,000
1960	\$186,300,000	1977	\$776,000,000	1994	\$786,300,000	2011	\$1,273,631,000
1961	\$217,300,000	1978	\$775,000,000	1995	\$728,000,000	2012	\$1,291,186,000
1962	\$247,000,000	1979	\$786,100,000	1996	\$693,000,000	2013	\$1,223,649,000
1963	\$283,322,000	1980	\$772,000,000	1997	\$730,000,000	2014	\$1,288,603,000
1964	\$320,000,000	1981	\$706,750,000	1998	\$808,000,000	2015	\$1,289,000,000
1965	\$332,000,000	1982	\$441,776,532	1999	\$864,000,000	2016	\$1,289,000,000
1966	\$388,000,000	1983	\$467,020,879	2000	\$910,500,000		
1967	\$416,200,000	1984	\$555,000,000	2001	\$993,302,000		





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# IMPACT AID GLOSSARY OF TERMS

## **ADA**

Average daily attendance. Average number of students present (as opposed to enrolled) during the time a school is in session.

## **FISCAL YEAR (FY)**

A period used for calculating Impact Aid payments. The Federal fiscal year begins on October 1 of any given year and ends on September 30. Federal fiscal years do not follow school calendar years.

## **LEARNING OPPORTUNITY THRESHOLD (LOT)**

The percent that indicates how dependent a school district is on Impact Aid funds—the higher the LOT percentage, the closer the LOT payment is to the Maximum Basic Support Payment.

## **LOCAL CONTRIBUTION RATE (LCR)**

The estimated local share of the cost of elementary and secondary education.

## **LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY (LEA)**

A board of education or other legally constituted local school authority having administrative control and direction of free public education in a county, township, independent school district, or other school district, including any state agency that operates and maintains facilities for providing a free public education.

## **PL-81-874**

Original Impact Aid statute; passed in 1950. In 1965, it was used by Congress as the legislative vehicle to pass the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). In 1994, Impact Aid was folded into ESEA as Title VIII and PL-81-874 was repealed. In 2015, Impact Aid was reauthorized as Title VII in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

## **SECTION 7002 (FEDERAL PROPERTY)**

Provides assistance to a local school district that has lost a portion of its tax base due to Federal acquisition. Eligibility is determined by how and when the land was acquired by the Federal government.

## **SECTION 7003 (BASIC SUPPORT)**

Payments made to school districts that educate at least 400 Federal students who are in average daily attendance (ADA), or have at least a three-percent ADA of Federal students.

## **STUDENT WEIGHTS**

Federal students are given different weights to calculate a school district's payment. They are as follows: Indian Lands children 1.25; Military on-base 1.00; Civilian children whose parents live AND work on base 1.00; Military off-base children .20; Low-rent housing children .10; Civilian children whose parents live OR work on Federal property .05.

## **TOTAL CURRENT EXPENDITURES**

All expenditures for free public education, including expenditures for administration, instruction, attendance and health services, transportation, operation and maintenance, fixed charges, and net expenditures to cover deficits for food services and student body activities. Does not include expenditures for community services, capital outlay, debt service, or any expenditures made from funds awarded under part A of Title I and Title VI.

## **WEIGHTED FEDERAL STUDENT UNITS (WFSUs)**

Children in average daily attendance multiplied by the categorical student weights in the Impact Aid law. These units are multiplied by the Local Contribution Rate (LCR) to determine an LEA's Maximum Basic Support Payment.





# National Association of Federally Impacted Schools