



Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

Our Mission: To secure federal funding which reimburses eligible districts for tax revenue lost (for student programs) due to the federal government's removal of land from the local tax rolls; such revenue to be used for the public education of students.

AGENDA

FALL NAFIS CONFERENCE 2019

Sunday, September 22, 2019

10:45 – Noon

- I. Review of the Mission/Vision of the Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association – Craig Hutcheson
 - No district financially destroyed
 - Widen participation of 7002 districts
 - Fair distribution of 7002 funds
- II. Introductions and Comments – Craig Hutcheson
- III. Advocacy Action Plan (Original Plan at the end of this agenda for reference) – Mark Naugle
 - A. Ready for an official renewal
 - B. Creation of a new plan to commence at the winter meeting, January, 2020 in conjunction with the naming of a new Executive Director
- IV. Roll Call – Tom Gregory
- V. Recognition of new attendees – Craig Hutcheson



Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

- VI. **Review of Summer Meeting in Custer, SD, and Comments from attendees – Craig Hutcheson & Tom Madden**

- VII. **Executive director’s report – Tom Madden**
 - **The desired future of our organization and the status of the ADVOCACY ACTION PLAN V-P-S-R (Vision-Power-Structure-Resources)**
 - **FLISA Video “Elevator Speech”**
 - **Reauthorization FY’17-’20 – Entering final year, but likely to be delayed**
 1. **Preserve Foundation Payment**
 2. **We must be prepared – Delayed reauthorization would be to our advantage**
 3. **Review of the “history” lesson from the summer meeting?**
 4. **Issue of districts not participating in the payment determination of “remaining funds”**
 - **Reminder: The NAFIS Fall Conference in 2020 will begin on Monday instead of Sunday. Many of us usually arrive on Saturday and depart on Wednesday. For this meeting we will arrive on Sunday and depart for home on Thursday.....FYI for the future.**

- VIII. **Targeted Lobbying for this Conference – Tom Schneider**

- IX. **Website/Social Media Update – Terry Tamblyn**
 - A. **FLISA “Elevator Speech” video**
 - B. **Changes/Additions to the website**
 - C. **Reminder: www.flisa.org**

- X. **Approval of minutes from the summer meeting – Cathie Pezanoski**

- XI. **Treasurer’s Report – Tom Gregory**



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- XII. New Business**
 - Items from membership
 - XIII. NAFIS Board Update – Tom Schneider/Craig Hutcheson**
 - XIV. Information Items**
 - A. Winter and summer meeting logistics & future meeting planning**
 - 1. Winter – January 10-11, 2020 at the WYNDHAM GRAND Orlando Resort Bonnet Creek – 14651 Chelonia Parkway, Orlando, FL 32821 Main Phone: (407) 390-2300**
 - 2. Registration/Reservation information was emailed in August and is available on the FLISA website – www.flisa.org**
 - B. Summer – June 19-20 (or 26-27?) - Jersey City, NJ; Seattle, WA; San Francisco, CA**
- XV. NAFIS Update – Hilary Goldman**
- XVI. Adjournment**



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AGENDA

FALL NAFIS CONFERENCE 2019

Monday, September 24

3, 2019

8:30 – 9:45 am

- I. Call to Order/Introductions – Craig Hutcheson
- II. Information Items
 - Additional Items since yesterday's meeting
- III. Old Business
 - Any Carry-Over from Sunday's Meeting
- IV. New Business
 - Items from membership
- V. Continued Discussion on the funding formula for Section 7002
- VI. Adjourn

Back-to-School 2019: 6 Ways to Support Impact Aid

For educators, this time of the year is about getting the school year up and running, including planning for the Impact Aid application. For Impact Aid advocates, it is also about connecting with members of Congress while they are home in their states and districts to explain the importance of Impact Aid and set the stage for policy work once Congress returns to Washington, DC, in September.

As you celebrate the back-to-school season, spend a few moments taking action to support Impact Aid. For example, you can:

1. Contact Your Congressional Representatives using the NAFIS Action Network

Ask your representatives to demonstrate their support for Impact Aid by:

- Co-sponsoring the Impact Aid Infrastructure Act, bipartisan legislation that invests in the facility and construction needs of federally impacted school districts
- Increasing funding for Impact Aid for FY 2020

On the [NAFIS Action Network](#) – our virtual tool to facilitate communication between you and your representatives in Congress – we have templates you can send directly to your legislators urging action on these issues. Personalize the messages to show how important Impact Aid is to your school district.

2. Raise Awareness on Social Media

Social media is a great way to inform your community on Impact Aid, show your support for the program, and get ideas on how to improve your practice. For example, you can use Twitter and Facebook to alert your community when parent-pupil surveys are sent home; search for examples of how other districts are publicizing the surveys; or tag your legislators in tweets about how important Impact Aid is to your district.

Sample messages (@XXX is a placeholder for your school district's Twitter handle; @YYY is a placeholder for your member of Congress' handle, which can be found on their website):

- Be on the lookout for your child's Federal #ImpactAid card. Complete and return the card to ensure our school district receives the resources we deserve! *(Tip: include a picture of the survey card so parents know what it looks like)*
- @XXX relies on #ImpactAid to pay for student transportation, technology and school counselors. Parents & guardians, please complete your survey cards so we get the resources our students deserve! *(Tip: include a picture of the survey card so parents know what it looks like)*
- As we head back to school, we are thankful for the #ImpactAid program, which provides funds that we use to offer important opportunities & resources to students. @YYY
- Congress: Support a \$52 million increase for #ImpactAid! We at @XXX use it for STEM curriculum, student social/emotional supports, facilities maintenance and more. @YYY

3. Meet with Congress at Home

Take advantage of Congress being home through September 8 to meet with your representatives at their district office to talk about the importance of Impact Aid, or invite them to visit a local school. Treat this meeting as you would a meeting in DC – schedule it in advance (or stop by during office hours if appropriate); be on time; be prepared with talking points; and have materials to leave behind as a resource. Remember to use the meeting as a photo opportunity, and publicize it in a newsletter or on social media.

If you aren't able to schedule a meeting or school visit, consider attending a town hall meeting to pose a question about Impact Aid to your elected official.

4. Submit an Op-Ed or Letter to the Editor

Op-eds and letters to the editor are opportunities for those with special knowledge on a topic (like Impact Aid) to express their opinion and offer evidence for their point of view. They are well-read by the public and monitored by congressional offices to identify issues important to constituents.

If possible, tie your op-ed or letter to the editor to a recent news story or editorial. Check with your local paper as to their preferred length – letters to the editor tend to be less than 250 words; op-eds have a wide range but are more typically between 550 and 800. Remember to include your name, address and daytime phone number with your letter (editors will need to verify that you are the author).

Here's an example of [a letter to the editor](#) thanking legislators for their support of Impact Aid, and [an op-ed](#) opposing the recent proposal to redirect Impact Aid funds to private school vouchers.

5. Adopt a School Board Resolution

Adopting a school board resolution in recognition of the importance of the Impact Aid program is another way to support Impact Aid, demonstrating to your community and to Federal policymakers that it should be a priority. Here's an example of a resolution from [Impact Schools of South Dakota](#), and another example from [San Diego Unified School District](#).

If your school board does adopt such a resolution, be sure to alert your congressional representatives and send it to NAFIS.

6. Share Your Story with NAFIS

Join the NAFIS "Faces of Impact Aid" campaign. Modeled after the popular social media project "Humans of New York," "Faces of Impact Aid" features short vignettes from school districts that illustrate important projects and opportunities that Impact Aid funds, including STEM programs, school construction, teacher recruitment and retention activities, social/emotional learning and more. These stories both inform NAFIS' efforts on the Hill and raise awareness about why Impact Aid is important. To participate, follow this [template](#) and email it to Anne O'Brien (anne@nafisdc.org). Be sure to include a photograph (pre-approved for use on social media and in print) illustrating your point.

Please contact Anne O'Brien, NAFIS Director of Communications, if you have any questions or want to share other ideas on how to support Impact Aid!



Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

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SCHOOL OR FLISA LETTERHEAD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [Insert date]

CONTACT: [Insert name, phone number, e-mail address]

[Insert school district/school] Learn About Education Policy, --OR-- Ask Lawmakers to Increase Impact Aid Funding

[City and state] –Members of the [insert school district/school] participated in the [Fall/Spring] Conference of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools in Washington, D.C., on [dates] to learn more about federal education policy and urge [insert name of member of Congress] for additional Impact Aid Funds.

The conference, is held biannually by the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) which represents 1,200-plus federally impacted public school districts that together educate more than 10 million students across the nation. These school districts, which are demographically and geographically diverse, 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.

[insert school district/school] receives Impact Aid dollars due to the [impacted property] and is a member of the Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (FLISA) represents approximately 240 school districts and nearly 900,000 students that have federally owned land within their district boundaries, land for which the Federal Government pays no property taxes to schools. FLISA is a sub-group of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS). To learn more, visit www.flisa.org.

Among the topics covered at the conference:

- ATTENDEE SHOULD INSERT SESSIONS HERE THAT THEY FOUND BENEFICIAL – EXAMPLES INCLUDE:
- The Current and Future Congressional Legislative Agenda
- Federal Education Budgeting Process
- Department of Education Impact Aid Application Process

[Insert name], [title] of the Members of the [insert school district/school] participated said, “[ATTENDEE SHOULD ADD A QUOTE HERE ABOUT WHAT THEY LEARNED, AND/OR HOW THEY’RE EVEN BETTER PREPARED TO IMPROVE SCHOOL AND STUDENT NEEDS AFTER ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE.]”

While at the nation’s capital Members of the [insert school district/school] had a full day of meetings with Members of Congress. Meetings were held with [LIST MEMBERS OF CONGRESS] to discuss the success of [insert school district/school] students, the incredible involvement of [insert school district/school] parents and the need to increase Federal Impact Aid for the next fiscal year.

About

INSERT THE ‘ABOUT US’ PARAGRAPH YOU HAVE ON YOUR SCHOOL/SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITE.

###

INFORMATION ALERT: Budget Deal Reached

1 message

Anne O'Brien <anne@nafisdc.org>

Reply-To: anne@nafisdc.org

To: tschneider@ccsd180.org

Tue, Jul 23, 2019 at 3:07 PM



National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

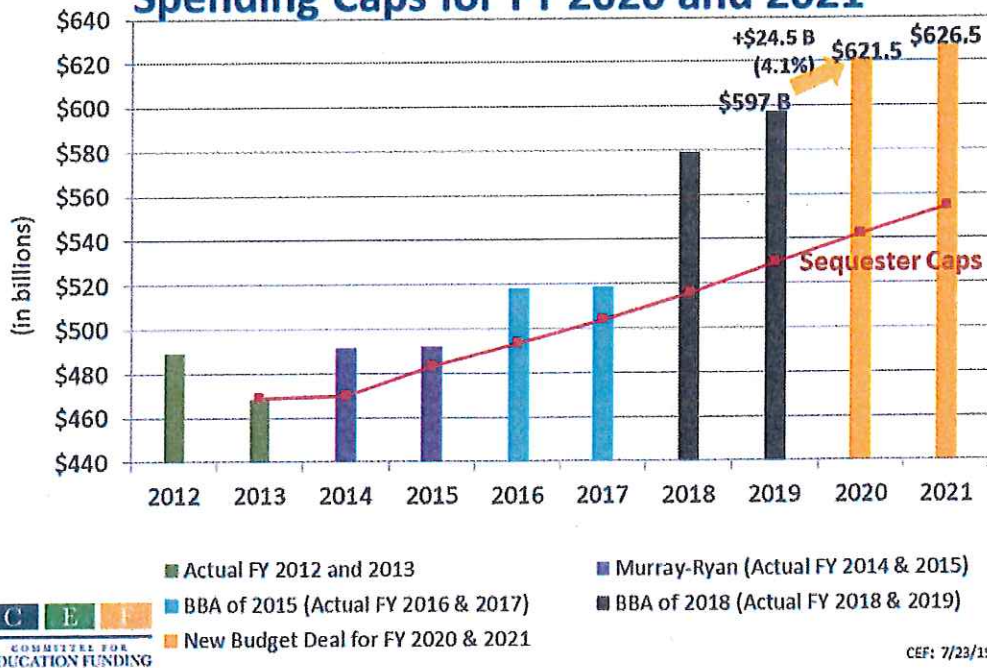
Yesterday evening, Speaker Pelosi and White House officials released the details of the budget deal they negotiated.

The deal would suspend the debt ceiling for two years and raise spending caps for defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs. The NDD cap is set at \$621.5 billion for FY 2020. This is \$24.5 billion above the current spending level, but \$9.5 billion below the level previously passed by the House.

The House will consider the bill this week before leaving for August recess, with Senate consideration to follow. The bill will face opposition from both the progressive and conservative wings of the House but is likely to have enough bipartisan support to pass. If the deal passes both the House and Senate before the August recess, the Senate will quickly begin its appropriations process.

Because the budget levels are lower than the previously passed House budget, it may be difficult for Impact Aid to maintain the increases we secured in the House Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill - \$50 million for Basic Support and \$2 million for Federal Property. Therefore, it is important the NAFIS Family remains engaged in our advocacy. The Senate Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill is expected to begin moving in early or mid-September. This means the [NAFIS Fall Conference](#) (September 22-24) will be the perfect time to come to DC and make the case for this funding in person!

Budget Deal Raises Non-Defense Discretionary Spending Caps for FY 2020 and 2021



Tell the Senate to Increase Funding for Impact Aid

With a budget agreement and House-passed appropriations bill in place, the Senate will be working on its FY20 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education appropriations bill when it returns from recess in September. NAFIS recommends that the Senate follow House action and fund Impact Aid with a minimum increase of \$50 million for Basic Support and \$2 million for Federal Property.

NAFIS will be working to secure this increase in a final appropriations bill. Because the budget number the House used in drafting its original bill is higher than the final budget agreement, House-proposed funding for some programs will be cut. We need your help to ensure Impact Aid isn't one of them. Be sure to let your Members of Congress know how important this increase would be for your district and your students!

[Take Action](#)

Senate Appropriations Bill Delayed; House Prepares Continuing Resolution

With both the House and Senate back from August recess and only ten legislative days before the end of the 2019 fiscal year, the Senate appropriations committee had scheduled a subcommittee markup and full committee hearing on the FY20 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) bill this week. However, both were canceled.

Before leaving for recess, senators of both parties had a handshake agreement to avoid “poison pill” riders – hot-button issues sometimes added to must-pass legislation. However, it appears that the parties had not agreed on what exactly constitutes a “poison pill.” The markup and hearing were canceled as senators work through the issue.

In the meantime, the House has readied a Continuing Resolution, funding the government through November 22 and giving Congress a few more weeks to act before facing a government shutdown.

The Senate appropriations committee did release the top-level numbers for each appropriations bill this week, with LHHS slated to receive only a 1.04% increase over FY19 levels. This might jeopardize the increase in Impact Aid proposed in the House appropriations bill. Visits to congressional offices during the NAFIS Fall Conference and advocacy efforts from those not joining us in-person are critical. Use our Action Center to voice your support for increased Impact Aid funding today.

[Take Action](#)



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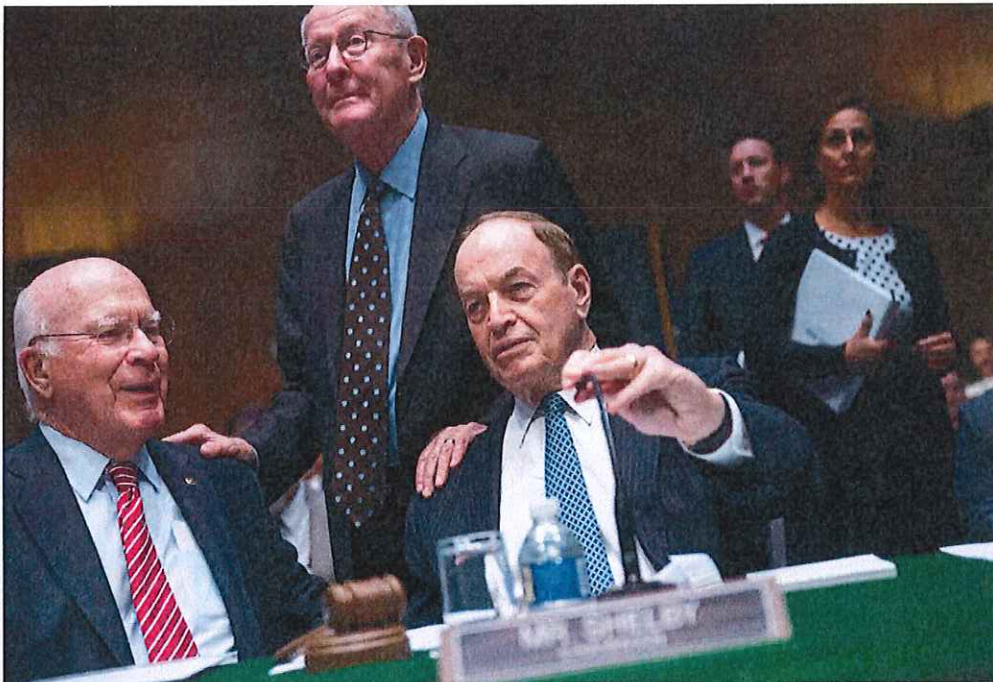
Report: investig...



Senators struggle to get spending bills off ground as shutdown looms

Jordain Carney 10 hrs ago

Senate government funding talks are off to a rough start with 10 working days to go until the shutdown deadline.



© Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call UNITED STATES - JUNE 19: Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala., right, Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., left, and Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., prepare for a Senate Appropriations Committee markup of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, on Wednesday, June 19, 2019. (Photo By Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call)

The impasse is throwing into question if senators will be able to get any of the fiscal year 2020 bills through the chamber this month, a setback for Republicans who wanted to clear a major package before October.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.)

Ad



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what's this?

said he still wants to bring bills to the Senate floor for a vote but warned that lawmakers need to "negotiate the terrain."

"We've been down that road before," he said, asked how the funding talks get unstuck. "There's got to be a resolution to it-it could be sooner. It could be later."

The partisan breakdown has left lawmakers visibly flummoxed about how to resolve the impasse.

Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) described the negotiations as "pretty fragile."

"If they break down we're looking at potentially a long-term CR," he said, referring to a continuing resolution.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), meanwhile, warned against getting "bogged down in too many foxholes" and disclosed that he'd turned to a higher power to help resolve the fight.

"I'm praying for Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member [Patrick] Leahy that the curtains will part here and we'll figure a way to move forward," said McConnell, who is also a member of the Appropriations Committee.

But a quick resolution is nowhere in sight with senators at a stalemate over major provisions, including the top-line spending figures for each of the bills, known as 302b's.

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed the top-line figures, a mammoth fiscal year 2020 defense bill and an energy and water funding bill on Thursday - marking the first bills cleared by the panel despite having less than two weeks until the end of the fiscal year.

But neither the 302b's or the defense bill currently have the votes to pass the Senate, where they would need the support of at least seven Democrats if every Republican voted for them.

Democrats are taking issue with the top-line figures, which break down how much money each bill will get, because they believe Republicans are padding extra money toward the Homeland Security

bill. And they balked at supporting the Pentagon spending bill after Republicans rejected an amendment that would have prevented Trump from shifting money in the bill toward the border wall without congressional sign off.

Sen. Dick Durbin (Ill.) - the Senate minority whip and top Democrat on the appropriations defense subcommittee - warned that the spending bill for the Pentagon is stuck until they resolve the fight over top-line spending figures.

"It doesn't go anywhere until we get an agreement on the 302 b allocations. ...We need to have the roadmap to take us all the way home," he said.

Republicans could bring them to the floor anyways just to have Democrats vote down the bills in what would amount to a messaging fight. Democrats previously blocked the defense spending bill in 2016 as part of an effort to force a budget deal; McConnell, who is currently up for reelection, used the votes to paint Democrats as undermining national security.

Spokesmen for McConnell didn't respond to a request for comment about whether the GOP leader would bring up the defense bill. But they are expected to announce guidance for floor consideration of the spending bills this week, suggesting the GOP leader does still intend to bring some legislation to the floor.

Democrats are making it clear they won't provide Republicans with the votes unless they sit down and renegotiate the spending legislation.

Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) said he thought Republicans "pulled the rug out from under us."

"They've got to realize the mistake they made. They've made a tactical error, and it won't be the first time that a majority party has had to correct itself," he said.

Asked if any spending bills could pass on the floor, he added, "absolutely not."

"You had every member of the Democratic caucus voting no" in committee, he said. "I think we've got to renegotiate the allocations, and if we negotiate the allocations we can move forward."

Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) characterized efforts to fund the government as being at a "crossroads."

"No one wants to resort to a continuing resolution or, God forbid, another Republican, President Trump inspired, government shutdown. But it takes two to tango. My Republican colleagues must know that what happens in the next few days and weeks will determine whether we can proceed with a bipartisan appropriations process this fall or not," he said from the Senate floor late last week.

The path forward doesn't get easier for lawmakers.

With the full year funding bills stuck in limbo, Congress will need to pass a short-term spending bill, known as a continuing resolution, by the end of the month. The House is expected to vote on a bill this week that would fund the government until Nov. 21.

And behemoth funding fights are still awaiting senators, who have already punted both the Health and Human Services, Labor and Education bill and funding for the State Department over concerns that Democrats would try to insert abortion-related language into the bills.

The Senate Appropriations Committee still has to take up a funding bill for the Department of Veterans Affairs and military construction. The bill will be controversial because Republicans are expected to include money to replace the \$3.6 billion in military construction funding that Trump redirected to the border wall.

And funding for the Department of Homeland Security is considered so controversial that Republican senators say they aren't sure they will even bring the bill up.

Shelby characterized the spending talks as in "round one." But asked if he could move DHS in his committee, Shelby demurred.


"That's challenging," he said, before throwing his arms up as he got in an elevator. "Sooner or later we're going to have to do something."

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TOPICS FOR YOU

U.S. National Debt Is Growing Rapidly [Infographic]



Niall McCarthy Contributor 

Business

Data journalist covering technological, societal and media topics

Last week, congressional budget experts warned that the Trump administration's trade war is impacting the U.S. economy and cutting household income. The [analysis](#) was released last Wednesday by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and it projected that the federal budget deficit will reach \$960 billion for the 2019 fiscal year before growing to \$1 trillion in 2020. That's higher than the CBO's previous estimates of \$896 billion for 2019 and \$892 billion for 2020.

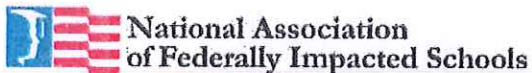
Debt held by the public as a percentage of GDP is also projected to rise rapidly over the coming decade. It currently stands at 79% and it's forecast to increase to 95% by 2029, its highest level since just after the Second World War. Debt held by the public is all debt owed by the federal government to those outside the federal government including individuals, businesses, banks, insurance companies and foreign governments.

CBO Director Phillip Swagel stated that "the nation's fiscal outlook is challenging" before adding that "federal debt, which is already high by historical standards, is on an unsustainable course, projected to rise even higher after 2020 because of the aging of the population, growth in per capita spending on health care and rising interest costs". On the campaign trail, President Trump frequently criticized the level of government spending and in 2016 he vowed to eliminate the national debt over a period of eight years. Despite that, the deficit has continued to expand under Trump, primarily due to a \$1.5 trillion tax cut bill and spending packages that have not been balanced by spending cuts.

**Click below to enlarge (charted by [Statista](#))*

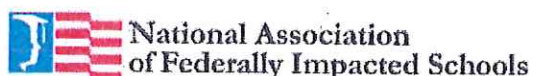
FY19 and FY20 Impact Aid Funding

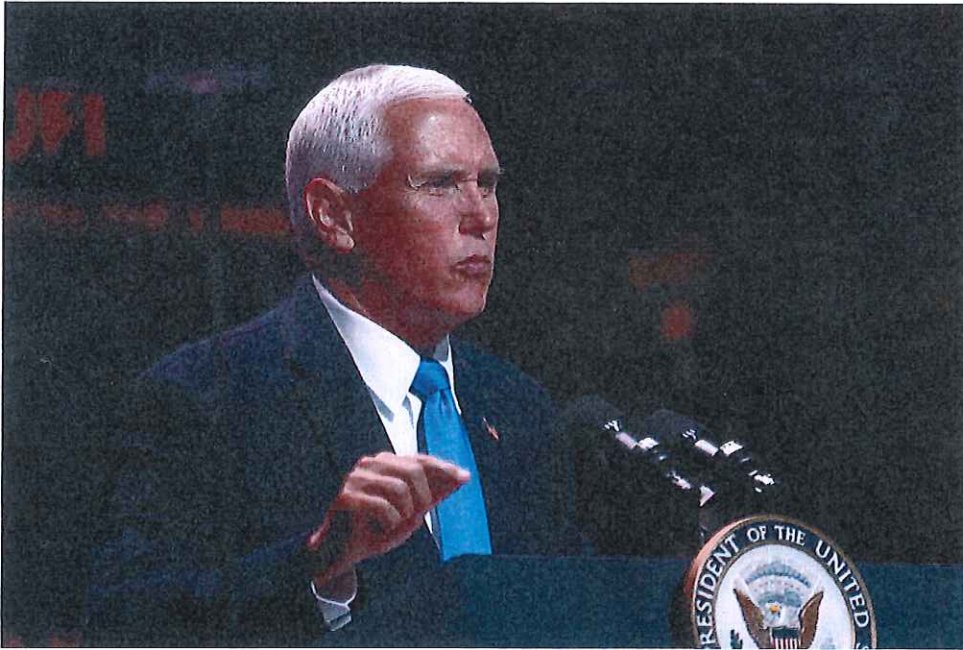
- **FY19 Funding: +\$32M for Impact Aid**
 - \$31M Basic Support; \$1M Federal Properties
- **FY20 NAFIS Request: +\$52 for Impact Aid**
 - \$50M Basic Support; \$2M Federal Properties
- **FY20 House Bill: +\$52M for Impact Aid**
 - \$50M Basic Support; \$2M Federal Properties
 - NOTE: The House deemed a higher full budget number than was eventually passed by House and Senate
- **FY20 Senate Bill: ???**



Impact Aid Infrastructure Act

- **H.R. 3647: The Impact Aid Infrastructure Act**
 - Introduced in the House by TJ Cox (D-CA) and Don Young (R-AK)
- **Would add a one-time infusion of \$1 billion to the Impact Aid construction line item**
 - Would run through Impact Aid construction formula – 40% to formula, 60% to competitive





Vice President Mike Pence was scheduled to visit New Hampshire on July 2 to deliver remarks on America's opioid epidemic, but Air Force Two never took off. | Patrick Semansky/AP Photo

WHITE HOUSE

Pence aide still refuses to reveal why trip was mysteriously scrapped

By RISHIKA DUGYALA | 07/10/2019 09:46 AM EDT

The mystery surrounding Vice President Mike Pence's scrapped trip to New Hampshire last week is still alive, with his chief of staff telling reporters Wednesday morning that he can't yet offer up an

explanation.

"I can't talk about that," Pence chief of staff Marc Short told reporters on the White House driveway. He said the public could expect an answer "in a few weeks."

Pence was scheduled to visit New Hampshire on July 2 to deliver remarks on America's opioid epidemic. But Air Force Two never took off, and the abrupt change in travel plans generated significant speculation on Twitter and cable news.

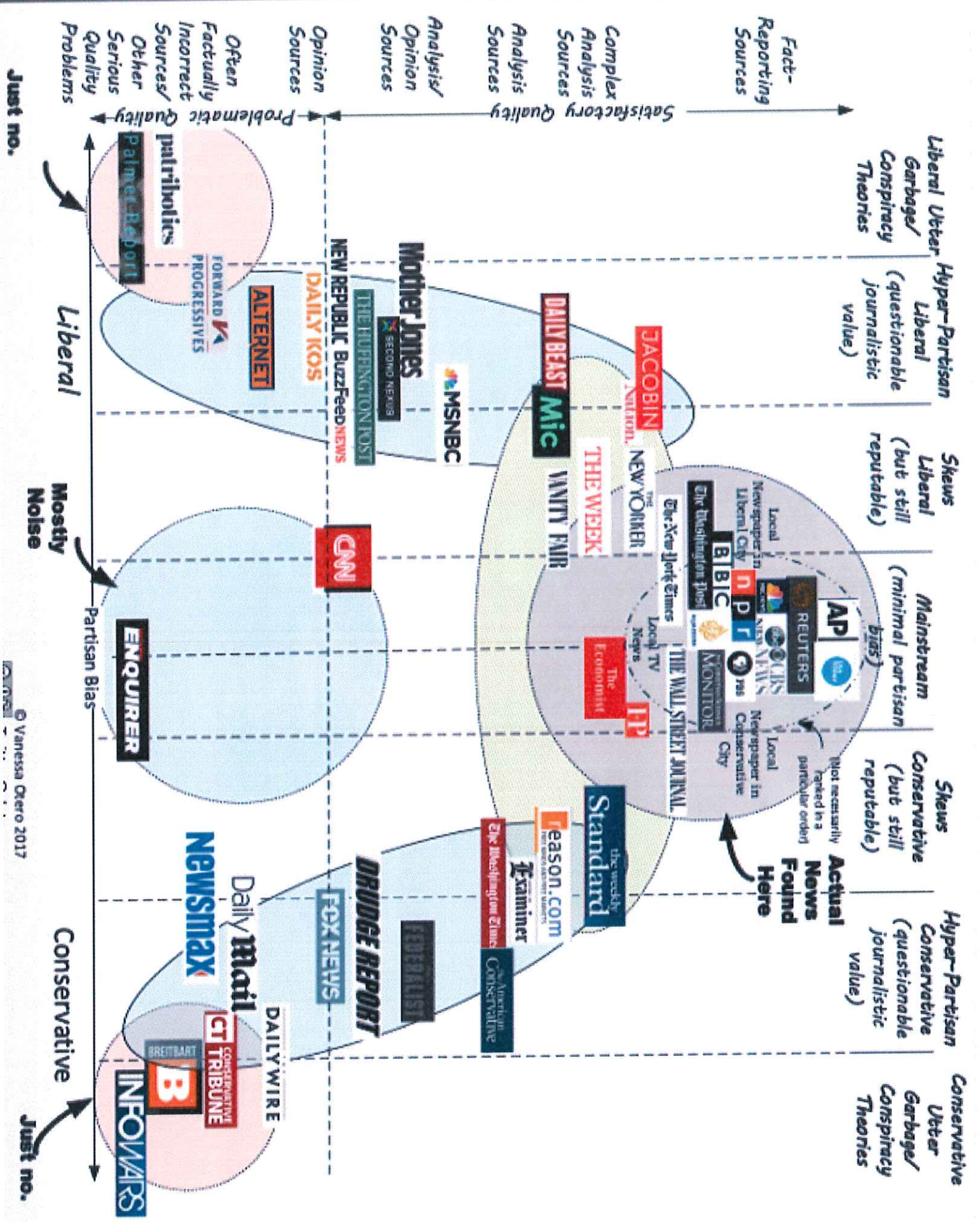
President Donald Trump said last Friday that people should not worry about the situation, while teasing that the reason would soon become public.

"There was a very interesting problem that they had in New Hampshire," Trump told reporters, adding that the reason will come out "in about a week or two."

"I can't tell you about it. But it had nothing to do with the White House," Trump said. "There was a problem up there."

Senior administration officials have said the cancellation was not about national security or personal or family issues, nor was it health-related.

Pence's press secretary, Alyssa Farah, also tweeted last week, "It's no cause for alarm. He looks forward to rescheduling the trip to New Hampshire very soon."



News

Supreme Court Will Hear Key School Choice Case Challenging Ban on Religious Schools Participating in Montana Tax-Credit Scholarship Program



Mandel Ngan/AFP/Getty Images

The Supreme Court will hear a key school choice case challenging a state ban on using tax-credit scholarships at religious schools, justices announced Friday.

The Montana Supreme Court ruled in December that the state's tax-credit scholarship plan violated a provision in the state constitution banning public funding for religious education. Those provisions, called Blaine Amendments, are fixtures in many state constitutions and have often formed the basis of legal challenges to private school choice programs.

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The Montana case is one of several regarding state bans on public funding of religious institutions that have sprung up in the wake of the high court's 2017 Trinity Lutheran decision. In that case, justices ruled that a church-affiliated preschool couldn't be barred from taking part in a playground safety program simply because of its religious affiliation.

Justices will hear the case, Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue, in their next term, which begins in October.

The Supreme Court has long said the use of publicly funded choice programs at religious schools is permissible under the U.S. Constitution, but lower courts have disagreed over whether states may ban it, Erica Smith, an attorney with the Institute for Justice representing the families challenging the ban, said in a release.

"We hope the court will clarify that just as the government cannot force families participating in these programs to choose a religious school, the government also cannot ban these families from choosing a religious school. The First Amendment requires government neutrality, not hostility, toward religion," Smith added.

Advocates for separation of church and state have said that programs like the one at issue in Montana amount to an unconstitutional requirement for taxpayers to support religion.

The head of the ACLU of Montana, which filed a brief supporting the state, in December praised the state supreme court's ruling as a vital protection of both public schools and church-state separation. The group did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to hear the appeal.

Other school choice cases, brought in the wake of the *Trinity Lutheran* decision, are still pending in federal courts in Maine and Washington state.

The Maine case concerns the state's "tuitioning" program, where towns too small to have their own high schools pay to send students elsewhere. Parents in the state, also backed by the Institute for Justice, are challenging a state law that bans using those "tuitioning" payments at religious schools.

The federal government earlier this month filed a "statement of interest" siding with the Maine parents. A district court judge upheld the state law in a ruling issued earlier this week; advocates said they would appeal the decision.



RELATED

Supreme Court Won't Hear Post-Trinity Lutheran Case, but Conservative Justices Anticipate Needing to Settle the Issue of State Support of Religious Organizations

In the Washington case, college students in a state-funded work-study program are challenging a ban on working for sectarian employers; they want to be tutors at a Christian school. Proceedings in that case have been paused until December.

Earlier this term, the Supreme Court declined to take two cases challenging a New Jersey court's ruling banning the inclusion of churches in a publicly funded historic building preservation. But the court will have to decide the historic preservation issue eventually, and it will be an easy one, three of the court's conservative members wrote.



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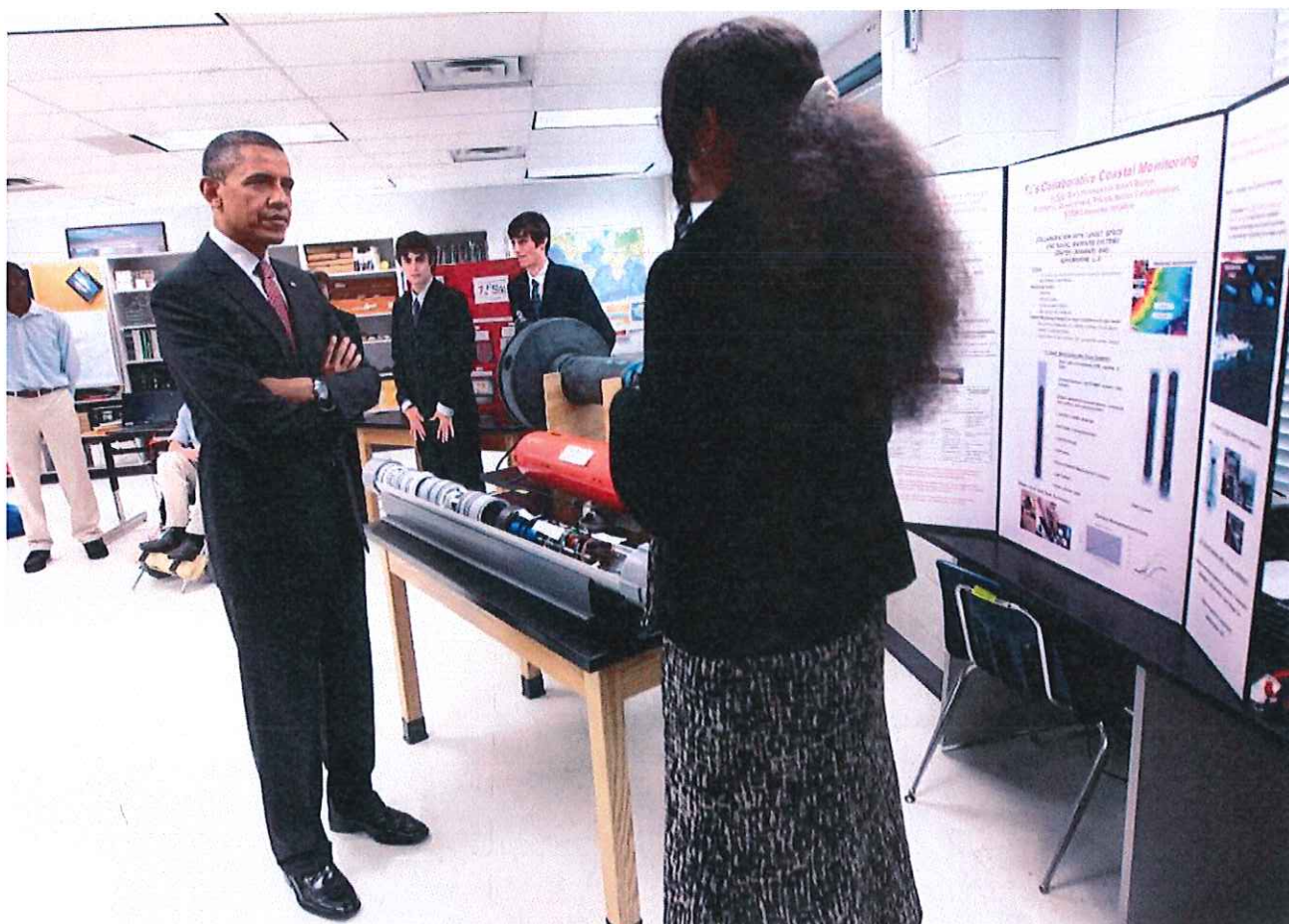
Why Wealthy Parents Are Increasingly Choosing Public Over Private Schools



Christopher Rim Contributor 

Under 30

I write about emotionally intelligent leadership and education.



President Barack Obama listens to student Alexandria Sutton, 16, during his visit to a classroom at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Va., one of the top ranked public schools according to Niche.com (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais) Photo Credit: ASSOCIATED PRESS

As the founder of an education consultancy, I work with parents and

students trying to make all manner of difficult decisions—and often, the most major and carefully considered one is which school their child should attend. From choosing a high school in eighth grade to deciding whether or not to transfer, many (but not all) of the families I work with end up choosing public schools. After all, public schools are funded by property taxes. Many families who can afford private school live somewhere with amazing public schools, and their students would be better off there. Here's why:

Attracts more qualified teachers

Although certification isn't a guarantee of quality, thanks to teaching credential requirements, public schools also guarantee a standard, minimum qualification for teachers. And although private schools offer other benefits (and although teachers are not solely motivated by salary), when competing for the best teachers, public schools do have an advantage. On average, American [private school teachers earn almost \\$14,000 less per year than public school teachers](#). That's especially significant considering that [US teachers overall make 30% less than the average college-educated worker](#). Of course, there are many reasons why a teacher chooses to work at a given school, but the best teachers are more likely to teach where their salary will match their talent, which often means well-funded public schools.

Achieves better (test) results

Student test scores may be an imperfect measure of student achievement, but public schools often outpace private schools in this measure. Although on average private school students score higher on standardized tests, [public school students score higher when the results are adjusted for family income level](#). A recent report by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) found [disappointing results](#) for Secretary DeVos's D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program. Students who stayed at even underperforming public schools still

scored 7.3% higher than those who used the program's scholarships to attend private schools. Students enrolled in similar voucher programs in Indiana and Louisiana also experienced declining test scores. Of course, test scores are only one litmus test for determining the quality of a school, scores aren't the only thing public schools have to offer.

More race/class diversity

Although private schools may at times be racially diverse, they are, by definition, never going to be as diverse socioeconomically as public schools. There are countless benefits to attending a more diverse school, from “critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity” to reduced anxiety, increased confidence and increased comfort in diverse settings—soft skills that will benefit students not just in school but throughout their adult lives.

Public schools: as good as your neighborhood

Instead of spending money on private school, why not spend money moving to a neighborhood with excellent public schools? I spoke with Edith Yang, a broker representing [The Centrale](#) building in Manhattan, who says that one of the things the incoming occupants really like about the building is the public schools it's zoned for. Both public schools in the area receive top marks—Niche gives both [P.S. 59 Beekman Hill International](#) and [JHS 104](#) an A rating. She pointed out that “your property taxes are funding the schools, so why wouldn't you turn that cost into an investment?” When parents live in wealthy neighborhoods but send their children to private school, they are essentially paying twice for that education. Instead, parents should enjoy the benefits of their tax dollars while their children enjoy a diverse and enriching education in the trusted hands of well-paid and highly-qualified teachers.

More intellectual diversity

This final point is one of the primary reasons I often recommend public school to my clients. Private schools are often very selective about the students they admit, which can lead to a more homogeneous class both in terms of grade point average and in shared areas of interest. Many of my private school students notice that other students tend to have the exact same interests (DECA, tennis, etc), while my students in public schools are surrounded by students with diverse interests and levels of ability.

Although there's a benefit to being around other motivated, high-achieving students, it can make it difficult to stand out from the crowd. In contrast, public schools accept every student, so there's a much wider range of students in terms of achievement level, drive, areas of interest and skill set. Many students are better able to stand out and achieve at a high level in a standard public school, especially when they have tutors and good support at home. When students are able to stand out among their peers, they feel more confident in their abilities and set their sights on higher goals.

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DAILY SHOUTS

A PUNDIT'S ABSOLUTELY ACCURATE 2020 ELECTION PREDICTIONS

By Johnathan Appel July 23, 2019

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Photograph by Robert Daly / Getty

W elcome to “Strike Out,” with me, your host, the all-knowing Chris Strikling. I will now share with you all my unfailingly accurate predictions for the 2020 Presidential election.

Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, Kamala Harris, Elizabeth Warren, Pete Buttigieg. Maybe even Julián Castro? There are a lot of Democrats vying for the Party’s nomination next year. But, since I’m a professional, I can already tell you that the Democratic nominee will be the candidate who wins the primary.

This Presidential election will be a referendum on the Trump Administration’s immigration policies. Full stop. But it will also be about health care, gun control, abortion, the death penalty, prison reform, unemployment, racism, taxes, unions, ISIS, G.M.O.s, NASA, euthanasia, the opioid crisis, the minimum wage, the deficit, and the environment. Full stop.

Now, I want to remind you all that the economy will be crucial to this election cycle. Our nation's economy has never been stronger, so that's a huge boost for the incumbent. It's also crashing and burning faster than that bus with a bomb on it in "Speed." So the economy is going to be really bad for the incumbent. I'll make that point again so it really sinks in: *the economy*.

Look at this 3-D holographic chart that just appeared in front of me! It shows both what I just said and also the opposite. Other networks might call that hedging your bets—I call it a three-hundred-and-sixty-degree analysis.

We have to watch the polls, that's what I always say. Unless there's a win outside the margin of error, in which case, you can never trust those polls again. Believe me, I have a master's in public policy, binge-watch C-SPAN, and am close friends with someone who kind of looks like Nancy Reagan.

Let's talk demographics. Young people will decide this election. But we can't discount the older folks. We've gotta keep rural white voters in mind, and we can't forget about Hispanic voters. Nor can we discount Independent voters. Or Democrats. Or Republicans, for that matter. Or kindergarten classes holding mock elections. Those are the groups to watch out for.

I believe that turnout will determine this next election. We must keep talking about turnout, because the number of people who vote changes how many votes there are. In my expert opinion, how many people vote for each candidate will decide how many votes there are for that candidate.

Therefore, I predict that the more voters there are this election, the more votes there will be. And the person with the most votes will win! Unless he doesn't. And you can quote me on that.

Let's quickly go over to our panellists for their thoughts, as expressed in guttural, near-animalistic screams.

Thank you—great points and anguished cries by all.

My final message to my viewers: don't listen to the other pundits out there. I'm the only one you can trust, even if they predict the exact same things.