



# Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

## FLISA Talking Points for September 2023 Hill Visits

**FLISA Members – This is not a handout but talking points for communicating with members of Congress and staff. The NAFIS Hill Meeting Tips on the back may also be helpful. At the Hill meetings, please share the new FLISA handout.**

### Introduction and Purpose

1. We are here to explain and answer any questions about federal impact aid and ask for your support for funding.
2. *Explain impact aid for each district (federal land, percentage, etc.). What would you lose without it? Tell your story.*
3. We want to make sure the program stays in place and maintain this critical source of funding for our students and taxpayers. Unlike some programs, we must have *congressional support each year to maintain this program.*

### Federal Impact Aid Background

4. The Impact Aid Program was signed into law by President Truman in 1950 and is the nation's oldest K-12 federal education program. *For nearly 75 years, Congress has provided funding to school districts with bipartisan support.*
5. Impact Aid reimburses school districts for the lost revenue associated with nontaxable federal property. This is valuable land that was seized by the government, *making that land exempt from local property taxes for schools.*
6. To be eligible, *a district must have 10 percent or more of its total taxable value owned by the federal government.*

### Student Impact and the National Associations

7. There are more than 1,100 federally impacted school districts that receive Impact Aid located across all 50 states. Together, we educate *more than 9 million public school students.*
8. Our association is the Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (Section 7002), and [FLISA](#) represents *approximately 200 districts and nearly 900,000 children* that have federally owned land within their boundaries.
9. FLISA is part of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools. [NAFIS](#) also includes Mid-to-Low LOT Schools (MTLLS), Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) and the National Indian Impacted Schools Association (NIISA).

### Local Financial Implications

10. *Our Section 7002 school districts have not been fully funded since 1988.* In fact, our federally impacted school districts receive on *average about seven cents on the dollar* of what would be received from local property taxes.
11. School districts are largely funded through local property taxes and since federal property is exempt from local taxation, federally impacted school districts are at a *serious financial disadvantage in funding their schools.*
12. New lands added by the federal government in recent years means that more schools share the same amount of funds, which results in *existing school districts each getting a smaller portion of the funding* that is provided.
13. Even when Impact Aid funding increases, new property added by the federal government results in existing school districts getting a smaller portion of the available funding.

### Our Ask of Congress to Support Our Students and Schools

14. We are asking Congress to provide some additional funding to account for newly acquired lands *so that our currently federally impacted schools do not lose additional funding.*
15. Specifically, we request that you consider supporting the *currently proposed increase in the Senate of \$2 million in additional funding for Section 7002 Schools in FY24.* For federally impacted schools, *this is a grand total request of \$80,313,000 over the FY23 funded amount of \$78,313,000, which is just a 2.55 percent increase.*
16. *For those not already a member,* please consider joining the bipartisan [Impact Aid Coalition](#). More information is on our handout we will leave. *Thank those who are already a member of the Coalition.*
17. Please also consider supporting the [Advancing Toward Full Impact Aid Funding](#) Act, which is aimed at advancing towards fully funding the Impact Aid program. More information is available on our handout.

# HOW TO DELIVER A POWERFUL MESSAGE IN A HILL MEETING

Your goal is to become a trusted resource for your Member of Congress and his or her staff, and to develop a strong supporter of Impact Aid.

## PREPARING FOR THE MEETING

**Use the NAFIS website, [nafisdc.org](http://nafisdc.org),** to increase your familiarity with Impact Aid.

**Do your homework** by identifying your Member of Congress':

- Committee Membership
- Impact Aid Coalition Membership
- Recent local newspaper articles
- Recent press releases
- Policy interests
- Space on the political spectrum

**Prepare an example** of how Impact Aid is important for your school district.

**Develop your message** using the [NAFIS Talking Points](#) and [Elevator Pitch Worksheet](#).

**Identify a group leader and plan** what each participant will contribute and when.

**Plan to use video**, if virtual, even if the person you're meeting with is only on audio.

## DURING THE MEETING

**Be bipartisan** and stay positive.

**Share your stories** and connect them to the interests of your Member of Congress. Be yourself and bring your passion.

**Be helpful** and offer to get back to the Member of Congress if you don't have the answer to a question.

**Make your ask**, using the [NAFIS Talking Points](#) to tell your legislator what you want them to do.

- Tailor to the Member of Congress' role
- Tailor to your expertise

**Take time to listen** and give your Member of Congress and their staff the opportunity to respond.

- Ask, "How can we help you?"
- Ask, "What is your boss' position?"

## AFTER THE MEETING

**Follow up** on any promises made - unanswered questions, statistics, resources, etc.

**Foster the relationship with regular contact**

- Set calendar reminders to contact your policymakers at least once every quarter
- Share school district news and other successes with your Members of Congress
- Make sure you're following your Members of Congress on social media

**Use Twitter to thank your Congressperson** - use the [NAFIS Sample Tweets](#) for ideas - or share a brief article on your district website. Be sure to send it to them!

**Send a "Thank You" email**

- Let the person you met with know you appreciate their time and support
- Reiterate any talking points if necessary
- If the Member of Congress is not on the Impact Aid Coalition, remind them to join by sending an email to [info@nafisdc.org](mailto:info@nafisdc.org)
  - Check to see if they're on the coalition:
    - [House of Representatives Coalition](#)
    - [Senate Coalition](#)
- Invite them to visit your school district

**Remember, advocacy is a long-term process** - the meeting is only the first step!