



Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

FLISA Member Meeting Agenda

FLISA 2026 Summer Meeting— Park Place Hotel, Traverse City, MI—
Courtyard Room 1 & 2—Friday, June 18th at 9AM
(Breakfast on your own)

Please bring your laptop/device for Committee Work.

NAFIS Director of Communications, Anne O'Brien, will be attending our meetings as her time permits to introduce herself and provide a brief NAFIS overview and answer questions.

Agenda At-A-Glance

- I. **Welcome** - Christine Walker
 - II. **Introductions** - Christine Walker
 - III. **FLISA Executive Director's Report and Legislative Update** - Tom Schneider
 - IV. **Review and Update and/or Reaffirm FLISA Mission/Vision and Guiding Principles of FLISA** - Christine Walker
 - V. **ACTION ITEM: Approval of minutes from FLISA Fall Meeting at NAFIS Conference** - Sarah Wedge
 - VI. **ACTION ITEMS: Treasurer and Bookkeeper Report - Approve FY27 Budget/Appoint Treasurer**- Jerry Ellender and Cathie Pezanoski
 - VII. **NAFIS Board and NAFIS Update** - Craig Hutcheson, Christine Walker and Anne O'Brien
 - VIII. **NAFIS LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY** - Tom Schneider
 - IX. **Committee Work and Updates** - Mike McElduff, Bob Reichert, Mark Cross
 - X. **Technology Update** - Tom Schneider
 - XI. **Member Presentation "Solving Space"** - Steph Long
 - XII. **Nominations for FLISA Recognition** - Tom Schneider
 - XIII. **Next NAFIS Conference and FLISA Meeting Dates/Locations** - Tom Schneider
 - XIV. **Miscellaneous/Reminders** - Tom Schneider
 - XV. **Adjournment**
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Detailed Agenda

- I. **Welcome - Christine Walker**
- II. **Introductions of FLISA Board, Past-Presidents and Attendees - Christine Walker**
Name, Title, Location, and Impacted Land
Recognition of New Attendees

Current FLISA Board (voting members) consists of:

Christine Walker (President thru March 2028, Past-Pres thru March 2030),
Jason Misner (Vice-President thru March 2028),
Jerry Ellender* (Treasurer thru March 2027),
**Retains Non-Voting Member-at-Large Status after this appointment*
Sarah Wedge (Secretary thru March 2027),
Frank Sheboy (Past President thru March, 2028)
Mike McElduff Advocacy Chairperson (Thru March, 2026)
Sally Crowser—Advocacy Committee Member-At-Large (Co-Chairperson) (Thru March, 2026)
Bob Reichert*** Membership Chairperson (Thru March, 2026)
Brooke Hazel-Massieux—Membership Committee Member-At-Large (Co-Chairperson) (Thru March, 2026)
Mark Cross Messaging Chairperson (Thru March, 2026)
Kevin Feeney—Messaging Committee Member-At-Large (Co-Chairperson) (Thru March, 2026)

Non-Voting Members

Bookkeeper: Cathie Pezanoski (Past President)

Past-Presidents:

Terry Tamblyn, Tom Madden, Sandy Doebert, Tom Davenport , Tom Schneider , Bob Reichert***, Craig Hutcheson, Mark Naugle, Cathie Pezanoski

Section 3 By-Laws Excerpt:

a. *Terms of Office: Executive Board members shall be elected at large for two-year terms with the exception of the member elected to the office of President who shall serve a four-year term, two years as President, followed by two years as Immediate Past President. [...] Executive Board members shall be elected at the spring meeting. The President, Vice-President and At Large Members shall be elected during even numbered years. The Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected during odd numbered years. Newly elected Executive Board Members shall take office upon the conclusion of the final FLISA meeting of the spring NAFIS conference.*

III. **FLISA Executive Director's Report – Tom Schneider**

- A. Overview--Welcome
- B. This is a member-led organization...we work together in advocacy.
- C. The success of this meeting is what you do between meetings to advocate for the goals of Impact Aid and FLISA
- D. **Legislative Update:** Presentation on Current and Projected Political Environment and FLISA Response
- E. FLISA Swag (Shirts) Discussion (Cathie Peznowski)

IV. Review and Update and/or Reaffirm FLISA Mission/Vision and Guiding Principles of FLISA – Christine Walker

Our Mission: *To ensure the reimbursement of funds lost due to the federal government's removal of land from local tax rolls, paid to eligible public school districts, with 100 percent of the revenue used for the education of students.*

Vision: *Advancing towards 100% full-funding for the 7002 program.*

Guiding Principles:

- *Section 7002 Impact Aid Funds will be distributed in a fair and equitable manner,*
- *Membership in the FLISA Organization will be expanded,*
- *Safeguard the financial interests of all Section 7002 Impact Aid districts.*

V. ACTION ITEM: Approval of minutes from FLISA Fall Meeting at NAFIS Conference—Sarah Wedge

Posted on the FLISA website

VI. ACTION ITEMS: Treasurer and Bookkeeper Report/Appoint Treasurer—Cathie Peznowski/Jerry Ellender

- A. Approve: FY 27 Budget Update
- Goal is to have one-year of expenses on hand.
 - Includes Miscellaneous Line-Item (\$600) for Awards/Recognition
 - Membership: 71 Members
 - Membership Invoice and “Why Join” Flyer to Go Out Soon
 - Dues to Bookkeeper at Ottawa, IL Address
 - ***Congratulations on the retirement of Jerry Ellender***
- B. Approve Treasurer through March 2027

VII. NAFIS Board and NAFIS Update— Craig Hutcheson/Christine Walker/Anne O’Brien

- Update on NAFIS Organization
- Fly-In Update (Thanks to April Moore and Mike McElduff)
- NAFIS Conference: Suggestions? Call for Presenters
- Share Your District’s Newest Initiatives with NAFIS Staff for publication
- Anticipated NAFIS Dues Increase Delayed
- Note that some changes to the NAFIS Closing Reception have been discussed to begin in 2027. More details to follow as the date gets closer.
- Forkenbrock Scholarship (Christine Walker)

VIII. NAFIS LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY - Tom Scheider

Review of 119th Congress and FY 26 NAFIS Appropriations Ask History and FY 27 Ask Discussion

Section	FY21 Final	FY22 Final	FY23 Final	FY24 Final	FY25 Senate Proposal
Federal Property	\$76.31 M	\$77.31 M	\$78.31 M	\$79 M	\$81 M
Basic Support	\$1,354.24 M	\$1,409.24 M	\$1,468.24 M	\$1,474 M	\$1,490.50 M
Disabilities	\$48.32 M	\$48.32 M	\$48.32 M	\$48.32 M	\$48.32 M
Construction	\$17.41 M	\$17.41 M	\$18.41 M	\$19 M	\$20.5 M
Facilities	\$4.84 M	\$4.84 M	\$4.84 M	\$4.84 M	\$4.84 M
Total	\$1,501.12 M	\$1,557.12 M	\$1,618.12 M	\$1,625.15 M	\$1,645.15 M

From Jayson Schimmenti in February 3rd e-mail on the NAFIS FY 27 Ask:

NAFIS board discussed our impact aid funding request for FY27. They opted to request an increase of \$71.5 million, consistent with our FY25 and FY26 asks. Attached is an updated draft letter reflecting the \$5 million increase in Impact Aid funding.

Schneider E-mail to President Walker May 22nd:

Reading the tea leaves on DC this summer will be somewhat challenging, but I again feel that we need to be aggressive in our ask.

In fact, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this, I'm wondering if we need to take some time considering being even more aggressive than the 3-4% range that keeps us within NAFIS ask parameters. As 7003 district student numbers are falling; their requests are more appropriately in this range.

But perhaps we should not be constrained by the NAFIS ask as our numbers are not falling and as our previous increases have historically not kept up. Perhaps it is time for us to request a "catch up." Just a thought.

[sic] However, this would mean asking for something greater than our other NAFIS partners.

From NAFIS Talking Points on Impact Aid Funding:

Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act—September 5th from NAFIS Staff

The introduction of the updated Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act in the House on Monday and hope to have the Senate version dropped shortly after. We're just waiting on the final sign-off from our Republican co-lead in the Senate. As such, we wanted to request the official endorsement of the subgroups. Here is the breakdown of the adjustments made to the bill this Congress.

- Sec. 7002 - Federal Property – the end goal is \$250 million. This would cover about 25% of the unmet need. This represents an increase of approximately \$100 million over the last Congress, primarily to underscore our commitment to the Federal property line, which has experienced limited growth in recent years, and to provide clearer messaging for the bill as we establish a goal of 25% of the unmet need.
- Sec. 7003 - Basic Support – the end goal is \$2,347,658,000, which would fully fund this line based on our estimate of unmet need based on FY24 data from the Department. This is \$105,988,246 less than the bill from last Congress, which represents a decrease in federally connected students and thus a decrease in the unmet need in the program.
- Sec. 7003(d) – Children with Disabilities – the end goal is \$120 million. This is a slightly decreased and rounded-off update of the \$120,316,000 goal from last Congress for ease of messaging.
- Sec. 7007 – Construction - the end goal is \$45 million. This is a slightly decreased and rounded-off update of the \$45,406,000 goal from last Congress for ease of messaging.

FLISA (Unedited) Statement in Support of Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act:

"This legislation represents the clearest path to making things right for the students, communities and taxpayers impacted by a federal presence within their school boundaries. It is time to fully fix these problems that were created for the past seven decades. This legislation is the best way to get it done, and now is finally the time."

--Tom Schneider, Executive Director FLISA

Impact Aid Caucus

- The bipartisan and bicameral Congressional Impact Aid Caucus, formerly the House and Senate Impact Aid Coalitions, were established in the 1990s and have since led successful efforts to protect and prioritize the Impact Aid program. There are nearly 100 current Members of Congress in the caucus, and we hope to continue to grow these numbers. If you talk to a member who is not currently in the caucus, suggest that they join. It is an easy way to show your support for federally impacted schools and Impact Aid.
- Contact JSchimmenti@nafisd.org to join.

Department of Education NAFIS statement (See Attached)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_0XAzUQUw

Education Department to Vacate Headquarters Amid Downsizing Efforts

The U.S. Department of Education has announced plans to vacate its longtime headquarters at the Lyndon B. Johnson Department of Education Building this August, marking a significant development in ongoing federal efforts to reduce the agency's footprint.

According to the Department, staff will relocate in phases to a smaller office space at 500 D Street NW. The move comes after substantial staffing reductions under the administration of Donald Trump, which have reduced the agency's workforce by roughly half. Officials cited that nearly 70 percent of the headquarters space is currently unused.

Secretary of Education Linda McMahon framed the decision as part of a broader effort to streamline federal operations and reduce costs, noting that the relocation is expected to save more than \$4 million annually in rent. The vacated building will be transferred to the U.S. Department of Energy, which is expected to take over the space.

Future of the Department of Education

- NAFIS opposes any attempt to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education and is deeply concerned by the Trump Administration's recent statements.
- Specifically, we are concerned that any reduction in staff at the Impact Aid office or transfer of authority over the program will negatively impact the program and staff's ability to disseminate payments in a timely manner and provide necessary technical assistance to school districts.

IX. Committee Work and Updates

A. Advocacy Committee - Mike McElduff

- "Leave Behind Packets"
- Fairness in Education Funding Act*--**GENIUS Idea Alert**

*Still need a copy of actual legislative language.

Mike McElduff, Highland Falls: *Rep. Ryan was looking for a co-sponsor (hopefully Republican) to sign on to the Fairness in Education Funding Act. (Information Attached). Stephanie Long has reached out to Rep. Bergman (R-MI).*

Congressman Pat Ryan's **Fairness In Education Funding Act** introduced in June 2025, aims to protect Impact Aid for school districts that lose revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands. The legislation ensures, in particular, that this funding remains stable during potential federal budgetary changes. The legislation will protect the integrity of the Impact Aid program and keep its functioning intact during the Trump years, despite Trump Administration attempts to dismantle the Department of Education (for example, by issuing an executive order directly saying so, by firing department staff).

NAFIS Efforts with Rep. Ryan staff (E-mail from January 7, 2026):

Rep. Ryan's staff. They are interested in doing more with this bill, but it has been pushed down their to-do list over the past few months by the other fires that keep popping up. We're going to work with them on shopping for more cosponsors and perhaps a Senate companion as they have more bandwidth.

- B. **Membership** Committee - Bob Reichert
 - Review "Why Join" Brochure sent in Membership Letters in June

- C. **Messaging** Committee -Mark Cross
 - Review Leave-behind and messaging for 119th Congress/OMB
 - Invite a Senator to a School Opening-- **GENIUS Idea Alert**
 - Town Hall Event to Spread Awareness of Impact Aid—**GENIUS Idea Alert**

After committee meetings need to have a plan for the committee's next steps between meetings and then include as attachments in the AGENDA for the next meeting

The committee chairs will have more information to share at the General Membership Meeting.

- X. **Technology Update: (Terry Tamblyn would remind you of this:)**
 - Student Photos with Reference to Federal Property for Website Reminder
 - Share Stories with NAFIS For Publication
 - Website Revision Clock Started (Thru Spring, 2027)

- XI. **Member Presentation "Solving Space" - Steph Long**

- XII. **Nominations for FLISA Recognition:**
 - Extra Mile Award
 - Steph Long
 - Tim Page
 - Jerry Ellender
 - Other Suggestions for Fall, 2026

XIII. Next FLISA Meeting Dates/Locations—Winter/Summer 2028

- **NAFIS Fall 2026 Conference:** Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, September 19th thru Wednesday, September 22nd
- **FLISA Winter, 2027 Meeting,** Hyatt Regency Clearwater, Florida—January 28-29th—
Registration Form Available June, 2026
Committee Work Thursday, January 28th —2PM-4PM
Board Meeting Thursday, January 28th —4PM-6PM
Membership Meeting Friday, January 29th —9AM-4PM
- **NAFIS Spring 2027 Conference:** Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, March 13st thru Wednesday, March 17th
- **FLISA Summer, 2027 Meeting—**June 24-25th—Nashville—
Committee Work Thursday, June 24^h—2PM-4PM
Board Meeting Thursday, June 24th —4PM-6PM
Membership Meeting Friday, June 25th—9AM-4PM
- **NAFIS Fall 2027 Conference:** Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, September 18^h thru Tuesday, September 21st *
*Closing Reception Moved to Monday, September 20th
Hill Visit Day, Tuesday, September 21st
- **FLISA Winter 2028 at Meeting,** Hyatt Regency Clearwater, Florida—January 27-28th—
Registration Form Available June, 2027
Committee Work Thursday, January 27th—2PM-4PM
Board Meeting Thursday, January 27th —4PM-6PM
Membership Meeting Friday, January 28th—9AM-4PM

XIV. Miscellaneous/Reminders:

Enhancing the FLISA Meeting Agenda –We are now looking for volunteers for 2027 Winter Meeting, in Tampa/St. Pete in 2027.

Call for Presentations—Winter FLISA Meeting 2027

Do you have important best practices to share with the educator community? Are you an expert on a cutting-edge issue in youth development or education? Can you captivate a crowd? Well, it's time to bring your ideas to a national audience – become a presenter at the FLISA Winter Conference in Florida.

Reception

Top of the Park Room from 5-7PM—Guests Welcome

XV. Adjournment