



Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

FLISA Member Meeting Agenda

Hyatt Regency—Clearwater Beach, Florida

THURSDAY, January 29, 2026—Committee Meetings Between 2PM-4PM

FRIDAY, January 30th—9AM Until 4PM : Longboat Key Room on the 2nd floor

Welcome Comments and Review of the Mission/Vision of FLISA – Frank Sheboy -
welcome from Cherise Imai and Jayson Schimmenti from NAFIS.

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.

Introduction of FLISA Board and Past-Presidents – see below

Current FLISA Board (voting members) consists of:

Frank Sheboy (President thru March 2026, Past-Pres thru March 2028),

Christine Walker (Vice-President thru March 2026),

Jerry Ellender* (Treasurer thru March 2027),

**Retains Non-Voting Member-at-Large Status after this appointment*

Sarah Wedge (Secretary thru March 2027),

Craig Hutcheson (Past President thru March 2026)*



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**By-laws state that if the Past President cannot serve for whatever reason, we go back to the previous Past President. In this case, Mark Naugle (retired).*

Mike McElduff Advocacy Chairperson (Thru March 2026)

Sally Crowser—Advocacy Committee Member-At-Large (Co-Chairperson)

Bob Reichert*** Membership Chairperson (Thru March 2026)

Jason Misner—Membership Committee Member-At-Large (Co-Chairperson)

Mark Cross Messaging Chairperson (Thru March 2026)

Kevin Feeney—Messaging Committee Member-At-Large (Co-Chairperson)

Non-Voting Members-Bookkeeper—Cathie Peznowski (Past President)

Past-Presidents—Non Voting:

Terry Tamblyn Tom Madden Sandy Doebert Tom Davenport

Tom Schneider Bob Reichert*** Craig Hutcheson Mark Naugle

Cathie Peznoski

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.*



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Introduction by Those in Attendance

A. Cherise Imai, NAFIS Executive Director, and Jayson Schimmenti, NAFIS Director of Policy and Advocacy, greeted the group.

Cherise shared a recap of her first few months in her new position and spoke highly of the staff's efforts during the shutdown; NAFIS is working on updating their strategic plan with a focus on how to best support current staff; Cherise encouraged FLISA membership to advocate to ensure IA stays relevant, alive, and positive.

Jayson shared his excitement about increased IA funding, highlighting \$1,000,000 in 7002; he discussed the Protect the Impact Aid Program and detailed the co-administration of IA in two departments, DOE and DOL, while keeping IA intact as well as keeping it unified in 7002 and 7003

NAFIS board will determine their Ask soon and share information with subgroups to ensure unified messaging

Fairness in Funding Act - Cherise and Jayson met with Senator Ryan (NY) and discussed language in his bill that would prevent any changes to IA without a court order or act of Congress

Jayson asked each member to review IA Caucus membership prior to Hill visits to thank current members and encourage new IA representative support.

B. Name, Title, Location and Impacted Land – see attached attendance sheet; *members introduced themselves and shared the importance of Impact Aid funds for their local districts, the benefits students receive nationwide, and expressed their pride at being part of such an impactful advocacy program*

FLISA Executive Director's Report – Tom Schneider

Overview of Hotel and Meeting Outline

This is a member-led organization...we work together in advocacy.



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The success of this meeting is what you do between meetings to advocate for the goals of Impact Aid and FLISA

Approval of minutes from FLISA Fall Meeting—Sarah Wedge: Posted on the FLISA website

VI. Treasurer and Bookkeeper Report—Cathie Peznowski/Jerry Ellender

- A. FY 27 Budget Update: ***Membership dues increase was successful with no negative reaction; budget is underspent so far this year and could end in a surplus; draft FY27 budget will be presented in March and voted on at June meeting***
 - a. Budget Committee Set at this meeting (Cathie, Jerry and Frank)
- B. Goal is to have one year of expenses on hand.
- C. Includes Miscellaneous Line-Item (\$600) for Awards/Recognition
- D. Membership: 71 Members – ***added and lost members but only down one from previous year***
 - a. Welcome New Members – ***none present***

VII. NAFIS Board and NAFIS Update— Craig Hutcheson/Christine Walker/Tom Schneider

- A. Update on NAFIS Organization: ***Under the leadership of the new Executive Director the NAFIS staff has been empowered and is acting independently to the benefit of the organization; in-person Hill visits have increased which may stop the move of the NAFIS to Alexandria building; membership is 409 this year and NAFIS a good place financially; dues change is still be discussed but not action has been taken; NAFIS board is headed in a collaborative, positive direction, is meeting more regularly, and is increasing in cohesiveness***



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- B.** NAFIS Executive Director Introduction—*Cherise Imai challenged FLISA to identify future “champions” in Congress – she challenged the membership to anticipate what leaders will exist with upcoming changes in administrations (the next Thune/Cole/etc.) and to establish and maintain personal connections with new staffers*
- C.** NAFIS Conference: *If you have an idea for a presentation, please send it to NAFIS*
- D.** Department of Education Staffing Status: *Impact Aid staff is mostly intact and still performing daily tasks, reviewing applications, and processing payments*
- E.** Share Your District’s Newest Initiatives with NAFIS Staff for publication
- F.** Anticipated NAFIS Dues Increase – *still in discussion*
- G.** Note that some changes to the NAFIS Closing Reception have been discussed to begin in 2027; *spring conference reception will remain on Tuesday*

IX. Executive Director: Legislative Update

- *Republican approach to Public Education was discussed using highlights from recent news articles*
- *Shutdown - DHS funding and recent ICE activity is effecting Congress passing 6 funding bills by today, January 30th; White House and Senate worry about sending bills back to the House for approval; two-week Continuing Resolution was agreed upon last night which would allow five bills to fully pass and DHS bill to be reviewed; if Senate passes bills, bills need to go back to the House for approval and the House is not in session until Monday. Democrats want legislative action, not executive action to make changes at ICE which could delay passing any or all bills*
- *Mid-Terms - President Trump’s approval rating will be in question during mid-term elections as Immigration and Inflation campaign promises are reviewed;*



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Trump ideas are supported but methods are unpopular “You can’t govern on vibes forever.” Mid-term issues: Health care, President Trump and how representatives align with Trump, tax changes from Big Beautiful Bill. 50 lawmakers have already announced they will not seek reelection, which is an indicator of instability. Redistricting across the nation will affect outcome of mid-term elections, 18 seats could change parties. Mid-term elections cannot be canceled but there is a feeling that the administration is working to undermine their authenticity.

- ***Public Education – In this term, President Trump has made most changes by Executive Order, not legislation; many of these have affected education by cutting funding and encouraging education outside of public schools. Removing the Department of Education would cut Civil Rights protections, SPED protections, grant funding, allow a focus on religion, and there would no longer any oversight or compliance enforcement. How does Democracy change if public schools are eliminated since it is a principle of our democratic process? States can opt in to the \$1700 tax credit passed in the BBB. Big picture is that negativity toward public schools is ultimately a financial decision.***
- ***Department of Education - With no Department of Education, Impact Aid will be moved to the Department of Labor. NAFIS was able to get a meeting with the DOE and shared concerns with Co-Administration of Impact Aid within two departments (DOE and DOL). NAFIS asked the current IA staff be moved to new department as a whole and DOE indicated they intend to keep the program together. NAFIS thanked staff for timely IA payments and stressed efficiency of grant program and payment processing. DOE understands this is a bi-partisan program. If DOE is going to prove they (the DOE) are not needed, they have been asked to ensure IA remains as effective as it currently is. Assistant Secretary Baeslar has been asked to speaking at the Spring conference in DC.***



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- ***Final Thoughts - Project 2025 includes omitting Impact Aid “not tied to students.” All Impact Aid sections fund students even though student count might not be used in the application. Our country is at a turning point from a period of ‘Sit Back and Watch’ to ‘Take Action’ against an authoritative method of governing; peaceful protest is the norm and communities are uniting in their anger and concern***
 - A. Share your stories (See: Highland Falls)
 - B. Legends in Advocacy (the Kevin Feeney Story and E-mail)

- X. **Review of 119th Congress and FY 26 NAFIS Appropriations Ask History and FY 27 Ask Discussion**

Status of FY 26:

Original FY 26 NAFIS Request (March 2025)

- For **FY 26 Basic Support (7003)** ask is:
 - \$65 million (4.4%) increase over FY 24 ask of approximately (as FY 25 not set) for Basic Support \$1.55B
 - This would put 7003 Districts at 96% LOT (or Higher)
 - LOT (Local Opportunity Threshold—Think of it as a local measure for adequate education funding for a school district in a state).

- For **FY 26 Federal Property (7002)** ask is:
 - \$3.5 million (4.4%) increase over FY 24 ask of approximately \$82.5M. FY 25 funding is at \$79M.
 - This would keep the entire Impact Aid ask at 4.4% for the entire program.



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September 2025—NAFIS Fall Conference

- NAFIS News September 5, 2025: the House Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee advanced its [FY2026 funding bill](#) for the U.S. Department of Education, which reflects a 15% (\$12 billion) cut, consistent with President Trump’s budget request.
 - The Impact Aid Program saw a \$5 million increase—\$4 million for Sec. 7003 Basic Support and \$1 million for Sec. 7002 Federal Property—in this version of the annual funding bill. It was one of very few programs to see additional funding.

CR Approved in November: Most 7002 Districts have received a majority of their FY 26 Foundation Payment shortly after the CR was approved in November.

Current Status of FY 26 Funding—January 20th: House and Senate Appropriators announced a package of FY26 funding bills covering Defense, Homeland Security, Labor-Health-Education, and Transportation-Housing. The bill includes a \$5 million increase for Impact Aid distributed as follows:

Sec. 7002 - \$80,000,000 (+1 million)

- Sec. 7003 - \$1,477,000,000 (+3 million)
- Sec. 7003(d) - \$49,316,000 (+1 million)
- Sec. 7007 - \$19,000,000

This package must still pass Congress and be signed by the President, but it is a big step in the right direction for FY26 funding.

What does \$1M mean for my district – Worksheet on FLISA Website districts can determine average over five years



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FY 27 FLISA Ask Discussion – Stress positive benefits of IA, great works of federal properties, consistency with 7003; create positive relationships with staffers

From Craig Hutcheson on the NAFIS Board: “We talked about this at our meeting last week and we will be determining the FY27 ask at one of our upcoming monthly meetings. I’d think we want it to be determined prior to the March meeting, but that was the conversation at the meeting last week. We did discuss the 4.4% idea and how that might work moving forward.” **Keep message consistent with 7003 unless 7003 drastically reduces their ask, 7002 should agree on a floor amount of \$1,000,000**

XI. Other NAFIS Legislation for 119th Congress:

From NAFIS Talking Points on Impact Aid Funding:

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.

FLISA Department of Education statement (See Attached)

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.



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- 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



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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.

XII. Committee Updates and Committee Work (See Below)

A. Mike McElduff --Advocacy Committee

a. **“Leave Behind Packets” - 20 Congressional offices have been visited and packets were left behind; will repeat this with updated materials and leave behinds from Messaging in March; plan to revisit this in September ahead of November election. Jayson shared a “Dear Colleague” letter saying the Congressperson supports robust funding for Impact Aid which allows representative to provide support without committing additional funds; he will continue to focus on Caucus enrollment in handout; Advocacy committee will email FLISA district superintendents prior to meeting to offer to share any messages with Congress.**

b. Fairness in Education Funding Act*--**GENIUS Idea Alert**

*FLISA is waiting to see 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. **Looking for Republican co-sponsor**



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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. Bob Reichert--**Membership** Committee: ***Review membership letter and one-page handout; Jayson will provide new member list prior to conference; develop outreach plan for new members; website will be reviewed and updated focusing on "Get Involved" area; review members who did not pay dues this year to see why and if we can encourage them to rejoin; will reach out to districts who receive over \$100,000 who are NAFIS members but not FLISA members and see if we can engage them; survey members to determine if FLISA is meeting needs and how current members can be involved, engaged, and find more value in membership; work with advocacy committee to ensure follow-up in addition to outreach. Biggest obstacle is time and real work at home – assigning accountability should help alleviate this***

1. Review "Why Join" Brochure sent in Membership Letters in June

- C. Mark Cross--**Messaging** Committee:

1. ***Review leave-behind and messaging for 119th Congress/OMB - Update flyers and ensure accurate Ask information from NAFIS; enhance best-practices for engagement by sending materials for FLISA members not in attendance and increase follow-up with representatives we met with in DC; develop post-election relationships with newly elected representatives; update FLISA***





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website with current talking points and fillable membership form; Tom will reach out to website developer to update site

2. Invite a Senator to a School Opening-- **GENIUS Idea Alert Custer, SD invited Senator Thune for the ribbon cutting of their new CTE building; Impact Aid funds were used to help pay for the project**
3. Town Hall Event to Spread Awareness of Impact Aid—**GENIUS Idea Alert Mike McElduff, Highland Falls: “Town Hall was a great success, with participation from representatives at both the federal and state levels. We had an attendance of over 80 individuals, and we believe the session effectively encouraged attendees to engage our politicians through letter-writing. We had pre-written letters for families as well as letters for community members who don't have children in our schools. We also have letters at each of our schools for parents to review and sign and we are working with advocacy groups to hand them out at the local Library and other locations. Our next step is to engage our faculty, staff and students to all write a letter by the end of May.”**

XIV. Nominations for FLISA Recognition:

1. Extra Mile Award: Steph Long, Summer, 2026
- B. Nominations from the floor – **None mentioned**
- C. 50-Year Service Recognition for Max Schochenmaier during the March NAFIS Conference at the SD State Dinner - **FLISA Gift**
- D. Forkenbrock Scholarship – **A national scholarship will be awarded this year, subgroups have been asked to contribute; Board recommends a \$500 contribution to match donation to FISEF fund.**



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E-mail from NIISA Ex. Dir. Brent Gish, January 7, 2026: *“First, thank you very much for taking the time to travel to Vegas and attend the NIISA conference. Your presence is very much appreciated. Second, the NIISA Board of Directors is contributing to the John Forkenbrock Scholarship that was established jointly by the Forkenbrock family and South Dakota Impacted Schools Association. NIISA would like to challenge FLISA and LOISA to do the same. Please let me know what you think.”*

XV. Look Ahead: What do we need for a successful future:

A. Interim communications

B. Summer 2026 FLISA Meeting Information—Traverse City, MI

*Registration Information Attached

XVI. Next FLISA Meeting Dates/Locations

a. **NAFIS Spring 2026 Conference:** Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, March 14th thru Wednesday, March 17th

1. Saturday, March 14th Executive Board Mtg. (Glacier Room) 6-7PM
2. Sunday, March 15th FLISA Membership Meeting (Congressional A) 10:45-11:45AM
3. Monday, March 16th FLISA Membership Meeting (Congressional A) 8:30AM-10AM

b. **FLISA Summer, 2026 Meeting**—Park Place Hotel, Traverse City, MI—June 18-19th—Location TBD--*Registration Available January 2026*

1. Committee Work Thursday, June 18th—2PM-4PM
2. Board Meeting Thursday, June 18th—4PM-6PM
3. Membership Meeting Friday, June 19th—9AM-4PM

c. **NAFIS Fall 2026 Conference:** Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, September 19th thru Wednesday, September 22nd



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- d. **FLISA Winter, 2027 Meeting**, Hyatt Regency Clearwater, Florida—January 28-29th—*Registration Form Available June, 2026*
 - 1. Committee Work Thursday, January 28th —2PM-4PM
 - 2. Board Meeting Thursday, January 28th —4PM-6PM
 - 3. Membership Meeting Friday, January 29th—9AM-4PM
- e. **NAFIS Spring 2027 Conference**: Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, March 13th thru Wednesday, March 17th
- f. **FLISA Summer, 2027 Meeting— Possible locations - Rapid City, SD; Newport, RI; Nashville, TN – Tom will research and report back in March meeting**
- g. *Registration Available January 2027*
 - 1. Committee Work Thursday, June 24^h—2PM-4PM
 - 2. Board Meeting Thursday, June 24th —4PM-6PM
 - 3. Membership Meeting Friday, June 25th—9AM-4PM
- h. **NAFIS Fall 2027 Conference**: Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, September 18^h thru Tuesday, September 21st *
 - 1. *Closing Reception Moved to Monday, September 20th
 - 2. Hill Visit Day, Tuesday, September 21st
- i. **Need options for winter 2028 – FLISA could return to Clearwater or search for other sites in Florida – need to look for walking distance food and entertainment options**

XVII. Action Items:



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17-A. Approval of FLISA Fall Meeting Minutes - Jason Misner Glen Lake/Tim Page Elwood

17-B. Appoint Members to the Budget Committee to prepare and present FY 27 Budget at Summer, 2026 meeting (Sheboy, Ellender, Peznoski) - Mike McElduff Highland Falls/April Moore Sierra Sands

17-C. Approval of FLISA Recognitions/Awards/Scholarship Donations – no vote

17-D. Approval of Future Meeting Location Options (Summer 2027, Winter 2028-2029) with the Final Selection to take place March, 2026 – no vote

17-E Motion to make a \$500 contribution to one-time national Forkenbrock Scholarship to be awarded in FY26 - April Moore Sierra Sands/Mark Cross Cass #63

17-F Revise budget to increase donation/award line item in FY26 budget by \$500 - Kevin Feeney Wilmington/Ryan Huppert Leland

XVIII. Reception Reminder/Adjournment – Sally Crowser Wall/Tim Page Elwood to adjourn at 2:54pm

Call for Presentations—Winter 2027 FLISA Meeting

Enhancing the FLISA Meeting Agenda –We are now looking for volunteers for 2027 Winter Meeting, in Clearwater, FL in 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.

XVIII. Bob Reichert Presentation—Health Benefits Enhancement Program

“a pretty unique cost saving and health benefits enhancement program for employees and employers that involves no out-of-pocket costs. I know we try to avoid bringing

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vendors to our meetings trying to sell districts on products and programs, but this pretty much a no-brainer in my opinion that would simply be me providing some information.”