



# Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

## FLISA Talking Points for September 2025 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 impactation 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 Section 7002 Impact Aid Program is absolutely essential for ALL STUDENTS and for 75 years, Congress has provided efficient and flexible funding to local school districts and students with bipartisan support. Section 7002 is the nation's oldest K-12 federal education program and predates the Department of Education by decades.*
5. *Impact Aid reimburses school districts for the lost revenue associated with nontaxable federal property. This valuable land is owned by the federal 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. When new lands are added by the federal government, 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. The impact of lost federal funding will result in a *loss of educational programs, or a proportional increase in taxes* at the local level to offset the loss of funding, *which many impacted school districts cannot do.*

### Why Our Children, Our Schools, and Our Taxpayers Need Federal Impact Aid

14. This is a *critical revenue source* for students and schools that is *delivered and utilized efficiently and controlled locally.*
15. Our communities rely on Federal Impact Aid to provide *essential instruction and services*, as well as partially offset the loss of local property tax dollars. *Our goal is to maintain educational services and avoid local tax increases.*

### Our Request for Your Support of Our Students and Section 7002 Schools

16. We are asking for the support of *\$80 million in Section 7002 funding for FY26*, an increase of \$1 million.
17. *For those not already a member*, please consider joining the bipartisan [Congressional Impact Aid Caucus](#) for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress. Please contact Jayson Schimmenti at [JSchimmenti@nafisd.org](mailto:JSchimmenti@nafisd.org) to sign up or if you have any questions.
18. Please also consider supporting the fully bipartisan [Advancing Toward Full Impact Aid Funding](#) Act.

# HILL MEETING TIP SHEET

Your goal is to become a trusted resource for your Member of Congress and their 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 Caucus 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 Pitch Worksheet.

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

## DURING THE MEETING

**Be nonpartisan** 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's position?"

## AFTER THE MEETING

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

**Use social media to thank your Congressperson** for meeting with you and for their support for Impact Aid

- Take photos at your meetings and share them on social media, tagging the Member of Congress you met with or whose staff you met with
- Write a brief article for your school district website and share that as well
- Include @NAFISschools and #ImpactAid so we can amplify your message

**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 Caucus, remind them to join by sending an email to [jschimmenti@nafisdc.org](mailto:jschimmenti@nafisdc.org)
- Invite them to visit your school district

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

**Keep NAFIS updated** on your Impact Aid advocacy throughout the year.