



Department of the Air Force School Liaison Program Impact Aid 101

What do I need to know about Impact Aid?

BACKGROUND: Since 1950, Congress has provided financial assistance through the Impact Aid Program for local school districts that face special challenges. The school district must provide a quality education to the children living on the Indian and other Federal lands and meet the requirements of the U.S. Department of Education, Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA), while sometimes operating with less local revenue than is available to other school districts, because the Federal property is exempt from local property taxes. The Impact Aid Law provides assistance to local school districts with concentrations of children residing on Indian lands, military bases, low-rent housing properties, or other Federal properties and, to a lesser extent, concentrations of children who have parents in the uniformed services or employed on eligible Federal properties who do not live on Federal property.

- The Air Force position – Impact Aid is a function and responsibility of the U.S. Department of Education (DoED). Department of Defense (DoD)/Air Force plays no part in the development, determination, or distribution of resources.
- Funds are an important source of Federal income for school districts that educate federally connected children and go directly to school districts.
- Impact Aid funds are provided to compensate school districts for tax revenue lost because of a federal activity.
- In some states, the Impact Aid goes to the state level. When this occurs at the state level, the Impact Aid funds are distributed equally to school districts.
- Impact Aid is under-funded and is a concern for local school districts and military Families.
- The Air Force works with DoED and DoD for solutions to Impact Aid under funding.
- Impact Aid funds help to ensure military children are provided a quality education.

How will my school district use the Impact Aid?

- Impact Aid funds are deposited into the general fund of the recipient school districts.
- Most recipients use these funds for current expenditures.
- School districts may use the funds in whatever manner they choose in accordance with their local and State requirements.
- School districts may use Impact Aid for a wide variety of expenses, including the salaries of teachers/teacher aides, purchasing textbooks, computers, and other equipment; after-school programs and remedial tutoring; advanced placement classes; and special enrichment programs.



Contact Your School Liaison Today!

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What can I do to assist our school districts in obtaining Impact Aid?

- Commanders can assist school districts in getting as much Impact Aid as possible by supporting efforts to get 100% of the military Families to complete the Impact Aid Survey that helps a school qualify for funding.
- Become familiar with all aspects of Impact Aid.
- Monitor legislation.
- Understand the financial implications for school districts of education military students.
- Learn about programs such as Title 1 funding and free and reduced lunch programs and how they impact military Families and schools.
- Encourage Families to sign up for free and reduced lunch programs when they qualify. Registration will make additional funds available to schools.
- Work with your local School Liaison to gain the pulse of education in your community and find additional avenues to help.

Isn't there any money to help individual schools that have a large enrollment of military children?"

- Congress has added approximately \$30 million to the DoD budget for the DoD Supplement to Impact Aid to support the need of school districts that educate military children.
- Funding is divided among "heavily impacted" school districts in which military children make up at least 20% of the enrollment. DoD utilizes data from the DoED to determine eligible school districts. Approximately 120 Service wide military impacted school districts receive the DoD Supplement to Impact Aid annually.
- Funding from the DoD budget does not mandate that the DoD money be used specifically to support the education of military students.
- Money is provided because of the presence of military students and in the recognition of the unique stresses this population can place on a school district's resources.

Will the Impact Aid dollars my school district receives for my child be spent for their school?

- School districts Impact Aid payment is based on the count of federally connected children who attend schools in the district.
- Federally-connected students include American Indian children residing on Indian lands, military-affiliated children (both on and off-post), children residing in federal low-rent housing, and children of civilian employees working on federal property.
- Money is not designated for individual children.
- Impact Aid funds are deposited into the district's general fund.
- Funds are not earmarked for any specific school, but to support the district as a whole. Impact Aid is the federal government's "tax payment" to the local school district for property taken off the local tax rolls; therefore, Impact Aid funds are intended by law to be treated as other local tax revenue.

Do all school districts educating military children receive Impact Aid?

- Not all districts educating military children receive Impact Aid.
- The enrollment of federally connected children in the district must be at least 400 or 3 % of Average Daily Attendance.
- Some districts may decide not to apply for Impact Aid if they view the cost of doing the required attendance survey as approximately equal to their projected payment.



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