



# Military Impacted Schools Association

*... supporting the educational needs of military families*  
 (800) 291-MISA • [www.MilitaryImpactedSchoolsAssociation.org](http://www.MilitaryImpactedSchoolsAssociation.org)

## 2008-09 Position Paper

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### Mission

Military Impacted Schools Association is a grassroots organization of school districts that serves high concentrations of military children (20% or greater). We believe strongly that we can accomplish most when we are unified. We build partnerships with parents, Congress, DoD, military leaders, associations, and local communities.

### Goals

- **Fully fund all sections of Impact Aid and meet the unique needs of school districts that serve military installations; and**
- **Guarantee a continuum of quality education for all children of our United States military personnel--no matter where their parents are stationed or may transition to.**

**Specific areas and actions that have been identified to achieve our goals are listed below:**

### Because . . .

### Our action is . . .

<p>1. Impact Aid basic support (the in-lieu-of property tax payment) is only funded at 60% of the federal authorization. . .</p>	<p>Work with NAFIS, Congress and our partners to fully fund the needs in all sections of Impact Aid--\$600M.</p>
<p>2. Military districts have many needs that have not been met for years. Congress, DoD, and the military services are looking for ways to help military families and the school districts that serve them. . .</p>	<p>Work with Congress, DoD, military services, and our partners to enhance quality of life for military families and address the needs of districts that serve them by appropriating funds for the DoD Impact Aid Funding for military children--\$50M.</p>
<p>3. Many of the unintended consequences of privatization of military housing have been resolved. Some areas to be addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ School facilities</li> <li>➤ Food Stamps</li> <li>➤ Daycare</li> </ul>	<p>Work with Congress, DoD, the military services, and our partners to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ address unintended consequences affecting military children as a result of privatization of military housing including school facility needs.</li> <li>➤ Privatized housing reverts back to the owner, DoD, at the end of a 50-year lease. Taxing improvements appears to be the local authority. Work with local government and base to avoid taxation.</li> <li>➤ DoEd has indicated that unless title of property changes, there is no change in Impact Aid status.</li> </ul>

4. School districts are having a difficult time planning as a result of the constant fluctuation in housing privatization projects. . .	Work with DoD to help provide communication between the military installations, builders and school districts.
5. Frequent moves and long, repeated deployments of parent(s) are causing stress for military children and their families. . .	Help facilitate districts dealing with military transfers and deployment.
6. MISA recognizes the extra work and efforts that go into a school lunch program by having free and reduced price meals. . .	Work with Congress on combining the free and reduced price meals into one program—free meals.
7. Military districts are located in states that try to claim to be equalized and take federal Impact Aid dollars into the state budget. . .	Work with Congress and local districts on legislation needed to secure and protect the school district Impact Aid funds in equalized or potentially equalized states.
8. Impact Aid is to be reauthorized in 2009. . .	MISA needs to continue to be heavily involved in the reauthorization process to meet our goals and positions.
9. BRAC'05, Global Re-basing, and Army transformation will have a tremendous impact on local schools (staffing & facilities) . . .	MISA needs to keep districts informed and local districts need to be involved with their community and military installation. Continue to work with Congress on DoD funding to assist school districts that experience increase/decrease of over 250 students or 5% ADA--\$15M.
10. Construction funding for school districts serving military installations is virtually non-existent at the federal level. . .	Work with Congress and NAFIS to provide legislation and funding which meets the needs of military districts in section 8007.
11. In 1994 Congress determined that funding should go to those with the greatest need first (need was defined by Congress as a percentage of federal children plus percentage of budget). Learning Opportunity Threshold (LOT) is the formula determined by Congress as a way to distribute limited funds until there is full funding of the Impact Aid basic support program. . .	Continue to support the current LOT formula in law and the current distribution of funds based on need. Need is defined by Congress as percent of federal impaction plus percent of budget.
12. The original Impact Aid program set the military off-base child's payment at .50 of the military on-base child's payment--today it is .20. . .	Work with Congress to gradually fund off-base payments at .50 of an on-base payment.
13. PL 94-142 (IDEA) set a goal of 40% federal funding for the cost of special education students. Currently the program is funded at 17% of the cost of a special education student. . .	Work with national organizations and Congress to secure a mandatory 40% funding of special education within IDEA and to ensure that these critical funds flow directly and intact to local school districts as Congress intended.
14. Military districts with 20% or greater impaction or with very high concentrations of military students are very dependent on the federal government. . .	Continue to work with Congress, DoD, the military services, DoEd, and these school districts to help meet the needs of these districts and all military children and to secure a long-term authorization.



