

March 5, 2007

**Issue: Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act**

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Federal Impact Aid statute are scheduled for reauthorization in 2007 and for the third straight year, the Administration proposes to freeze Impact Aid at its current level. The 1.228 billion budget submission is consistent with the totals for FY 2006 and FY 2007. In September of 2006, over ninety percent of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) membership including Camden County voted for the association's own Impact Aid reauthorization proposal. The proposal that will be submitted to the House and Senate authorizing committees includes language that would:

- Ensure eligible students and eligible school districts conform to the purpose of the program, i.e. tax loss imposed on the district; and distribute un-obligated dollars before they revert back to the treasury;
- Keep the law in tune with the ongoing Department of Defense housing privatization initiative to ensure funding stability;
- Make certain changes to the Section 8003(b)(2) – Heavily Impacted that attempts to standardize both eligibility and payment calculation;
- Leave the weight calculation for student categories the same and maintains the four local contribution rate options.

It is desired that Congress will adopt the language of the NAFIS Impact Aid proposal as submitted although it is more than likely that some changes will be evident in the final draft. Whether it's the NAFIS or some other proposal, reauthorization language must be scrutinized carefully to ensure the integrity of the program is maintained and that intended benefits are realized by school districts facing the challenges of serving a federally connected population. We hope you will seek input from the educational leadership in Camden County as Impact Aid is reauthorized and invite you and your staff to use Camden County Schools as a resource on any issue concerning education. We hope our names and email addresses will become common knowledge among staff who evaluates the effects of legislation on schools in Georgia.

Action:

We respectfully request that you consider the implications of ESEA reauthorization to Georgia school districts and fight any measure that would compromise Camden County Schools and an entire community whose educational programs are so heavily impacted by a military presence.

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