



HIGHLAND FALLS-FORT MONTGOMERY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mr. Michael McElduff, Superintendent of Schools

Federal Impact Aid - Community FAQ

What is Federal Impact Aid, and why is it important to our district?

Federal Impact Aid is a funding program that provides financial support to school districts that lose tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal property, such as military installations. HFFMCS D relies heavily on this aid because we can only tax 7% of land in our district, compared to the state average of 56%. It makes up a critical portion of our revenue.

How much Impact Aid does the district currently receive?

Our district currently receives approximately \$3.6 million in Federal Impact Aid annually. However, this amount has remained flat for over 10 years and has not kept up with inflation.

What would full funding mean for HFFMCS D?

If fully funded, the district would receive an estimated \$24 million annually - approximately \$21 million more than we receive today. This would close significant financial gaps and reduce reliance on local property taxes.

What has been the financial impact of inflation and flat funding?

In 2024 alone, HFFMCS D would have received \$990,000 more if Impact Aid had kept pace with inflation. The cumulative effect over the last decade represents millions in lost funding.

What does this mean for students and programs?

Without sufficient Impact Aid, the district faces the risk of losing over 30 educators and support staff, reducing or eliminating athletics and extracurriculars, scaling back academic programs, and making larger class sizes and fewer student supports a reality.

Why is the HFFMCS D concerned about potential elimination in Federal Impact Aid funding?

Federal Impact Aid funding is not assured on an annual basis. The district regularly engages with elected officials throughout the school year to advocate for the inclusion and full funding of Federal Impact Aid in the executive budget. This year, there is particular concern, as elected officials have expressed apprehension that this funding may be reduced or fully removed from the 2025-2026 federal budget.

How could this affect the larger community?

Loss of programs and staff could encourage families to leave the district, lead to declining property values, affect local businesses, and potentially impact the United States Military Academy's recruitment and quality-of-life perceptions.



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Who supports HFFMCSD's Impact Aid efforts?

We are grateful to have the support of: Senator Chuck Schumer's Office, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's Office, Congressman Pat Ryan's Office, State Senator James Skoufis' Office, State Assemblymember Chris Eachus. Additionally, there is bi-partisan support for impact aid on both the sides of the federal and state government throughout the country.

What can I do to help?

You can help by signing advocacy letters to our federal representatives, spreading the word about the Federal Impact Aid and contacting your elected officials to share your story and express support.

What happens next?

The district will continue to advocate at the state and federal levels and work with community members to ensure our voices are heard before the next federal budget is finalized. We are also preparing for in-person delivery of signed letters to our elected officials in June 2025.

Who can I contact with further questions?

You can contact the district by emailing your questions or concerns to impactaid@hffmcsd.org.

Where can I go to learn more about Federal Impact Aid?

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association: www.flisa.org

National Association of Federally Impacted Schools: www.nafisd.org

Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District: www.hffmcsd.org