



Military Impacted Schools Association

... supporting the educational needs of military families
 (800) 291-MISA • www.MilitaryImpactedSchoolsAssociation.org

2010-2011 Position Paper

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.**

Communication

MISA's website, www.militarystudent.org, pulls together information on funding, resources, programs, and partners. It is a great communication tool for educators, elected officials, and military families. School districts are encouraged to provide the website as a link on their school district homepage.

Specific areas and actions that have been identified to achieve our goals include:

Because . . .

Our action is . . .

1. Impact Aid basic support (the in-lieu-of property tax payment) is funded at only 60% of the federal authorization. . .	Work with NAFIS, Congress and our partners to fully fund all sections of the Impact Aid program.
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. . .	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 \$60 million for the DoD Impact Aid Funding for military children.
3. Many of the unintended consequences of privatization of military housing have been resolved. Some areas to be addressed include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ School facilities ➤ Food Stamps ➤ Daycare 	Work with Congress, DoD, the military services, and our partners to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ address unintended consequences ➤ Privatized housing reverts back to the owner, DoD, at the end of a 50-year lease. Taxing improvements appear to be the local authority--work with local government to avoid taxation. ➤ DoED has indicated that unless title of the property changes, there is no change in Impact Aid status.

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 transfers and deployment. Provide resources and workshops to assist.
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 2011. . .	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 an increase/decrease of over 100 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 to distribute limited funds until Impact Aid is fully funded. . .	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.

<p>15. Education is a “Quality of Life” issue--essential to the recruitment, retention, and readiness of our military personnel. . .</p>	<p>Work with the Office of the President, Congress, DoD, and the military services to enhance the understanding and address the need to provide a continuum of quality education for all military children.</p>
<p>16. Military families face many challenges as they move throughout their years of active duty and are under a great deal of stress as conflicts develop and they watch their loved ones deploy on a moment’s notice to defend our Nation. There is only one military child--no matter where the parent is stationed or where they are transferred. . .</p>	<p>Continue to work with elected officials, DoDEA, DoD, military services the state commissioners of education and the Council of State Governments to provide a smooth transition and a continuum of quality education for military families on the move. Provide training for educators to share best practices, procedures, and resources with all involved.</p>
<p>17. Military school liaison officers (SLOs) have been added in all branches of the services . . .</p>	<p>Provide training for SLOs to develop understanding of school district protocols, needs, resources, best practices and ways to develop strong partnerships with school districts.</p>
<p>18. MISA school districts’ grassroots efforts are essential to developing an understanding of the needs of military families and the school districts that serve them. It takes everyone working together to provide a continuum of quality education for military children and the school districts that serve them. . .</p>	<p>Work with advocacy groups to build understanding and support (i.e. Congress, DoD, military services and organizations, and local, state and federal governments) to refine and implement a comprehensive communication program to improve the understanding of Impact Aid and the need for a continuum of quality education for all military children.</p>
<p>19. Efforts are being made to provide vouchers and start charter schools for military children. . .</p>	<p>MISA opposes vouchers and charter schools or any attempt to dilute the Impact Aid program. Our goal is to ensure that the federal government meets its obligation to fully fund Impact Aid.</p>
<p>20. It is clear that MISA districts can accomplish a great deal by working together. . .</p>	<p>If a MISA district has a unique concern or needs help with the Impact Aid law, operating under the Impact Aid program, or with military families, the district needs to contact MISA for assistance, direction, or advice.</p>

As a member of the Military Impacted Schools Association, our district agrees to subscribe to the vision and support the 2010-2011 MISA Position Paper as outlined above.

School District Representative, Title

School District Date

