

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

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R.W. Traip Academy*

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TO: THE MAINE DELEGATION
FROM: KITTERY SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND KITTERY TOWN COUNCIL
DATE: JUNE 22, 2023
RE: APPEAL FOR FULL FUNDING OF THE FEDERAL IMPACT AID PROGRAM

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the funding of the Federal Impact Aid program, particularly in relation to its support for schools with a significant military-connected student population. As concerned citizens, advocates for quality education, and civic leaders in Kittery, we kindly request your support in ensuring full funding for this vital program. The Federal Impact Aid Program (7003) has not been fully funded since 1969. It is currently funded at 40% with a \$900 million deficit for the Basic Support Program (7003).

The Federal Impact Aid program plays a crucial role in providing financial assistance to school districts across the country that experience a significant impact on their resources due to the presence of federally connected students. In particular, schools with a high concentration of military-connected students face unique challenges and expenses related to their transient nature and the unique needs of military families.

With its rich history and strong military presence, Kittery is home to many families who serve in the armed forces. In fact, the Kittery School District has the largest concentration of military-connect students in Maine. Our community takes great pride in supporting our military members and their families, and it is imperative that we recognize the sacrifices they make to protect our nation's security. One of the most effective ways we can demonstrate our appreciation is by ensuring their children receive an excellent education in schools that are adequately equipped and staffed.

However, without sufficient funding, schools with a significant military-connected student population struggle to provide the necessary resources and support to meet the unique needs of these students. The Federal Impact Aid program serves as a lifeline for these schools, allowing them to bridge the funding gap and maintain high-quality educational programs. Unfortunately, the funding gap created by the underfunded Federal Impact Aid program must be absorbed by local property tax payers. In Kittery, that group is already heavily burdened by a Maine school funding formula that covers no regular education costs and only a portion of special education costs.

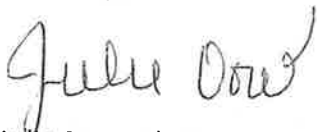
By providing full funding for the Federal Impact Aid program, we can ensure that schools like the Kittery School District can offer essential services such as counseling, tutoring, and extracurricular activities that contribute to the holistic development of military-connected students. We can ensure that our state-of-the-art facilities are properly maintained. Moreover, adequate funding would enable Kittery to invest in specialized programs that address the challenges associated with frequent transitions and provide the stability and support these students require to succeed academically and socially. Above all, a fully funded Federal Impact Aid program would alleviate an already significant financial burden on Kittery taxpayers to cover the rising costs of public education in its community. At the current funding level of the program, Kittery receives approximately \$400,000 annually with its current LOT (Learning Opportunity Threshold), a needs-based proration formula that is determined by the application data that the Kittery School District provides annually. If the program were fully funded, we would receive \$1 million with the same LOT (24%).

Furthermore, supporting the Federal Impact Aid program aligns with our commitment to educational equity. Military-connected students often face unique educational challenges due to frequent moves, parent deployments, and other circumstances related to military service. By providing full funding, we can help level the playing field and ensure that these students have access to the same educational opportunities as their non-military peers.

We kindly request your active support in advocating for full funding of the Federal Impact Aid program during the budgetary process in Washington. By doing so, you will demonstrate your commitment to our military families and the education of their children, ultimately strengthening our communities and our nation as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further with you or with a member of your staff. Together, let us ensure that every military-connected student receives the support they need to thrive in the classroom and beyond, and that doing so does not financially cripple the communities that our military-connected families call home.

Sincerely,



Julie Dow, Chairwoman
Kittery School District



Judy Spiller, Chairwoman
Kittery Town Council

RE: Kittery School District regards to Federal Impact Aid Programs

Buck, Pam (Collins) Fri 8/4/2023 11:37 AM

To: jdown@kitteryschools.com <jdown@kitteryschools.com>; town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Cc: Eric Waddell <ewaddell@kitteryschools.com>;

📎 1 attachment

Kittery_School_District_Letter.pdf;

Dear Julie and Judy,

I received the following update concerning your letter requesting Senator Collins' support of the Federal Impact Aid program for Kittery School District.

To date this is the update I received from the Senator' DC staff:

SMC Support for Education Funding Particularly Impact Aid

- As Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and a senior member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Senator Collins has worked to ensure that Congress provides robust funding and targeted legislation for the most effective educational programs aimed at helping students and teachers.
- She has been a strong advocate for funding education programs that provide critical support to Maine's children, including under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the Rural Education Achievement Program.
- Impact Aid provides assistance to local school districts with concentrations of children who reside on Indian lands, military bases, low-rent housing properties, and other Federal properties, or have parents in the uniformed services or employed on eligible Federal properties.
- When Senator Collins met with Kittery School District Superintendent, Allyn Hutton, in 2011, Allyn provided an update on Kittery's Impact Aid. Allyn was satisfied with the assistance that Senator Collins and her DC and State staff had been able to provide – the initial outreach and connection to the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS). Due to the Senator's support of the program, she wanted to ensure that the needs of the Kittery School Department were being met. SMC offered her staff as a resource to help facilitate any further processes that Kittery may have needed to explore.

FY24 Senate LHHS Appropriations Bill

- The **Senate** FY24 LHHS Appropriations bill included \$1,628,151 for Impact Aid, a \$10 million increase over the FY23 enacted amount.
- The bill was voted favorably out of the Senate Appropriations Committee on July 27. However, the bill must appear before the full Senate on the floor for a vote, and any differences between the Senate and House versions must be reconciled before it can go to the president to be signed into law.

FY24 House LHHS Appropriations Bill

- The initial version of the **House** FY24 LHHS Appropriations bill includes flat funding for Impact Aid. This means the bill provides the same amount of funding as for FY23. Many other education programs saw budget cuts in the House bill. NOTE: The bill was considered by the LHHS Subcommittee but has not yet been voted out of the Full Committee.
- As indicated above, the differences between the Senate and House versions of the LHHS bill must be reconciled before the bill can be sent to President Biden for signature.

Please, let me know if you have any further questions.
Appreciate your me, Pam

Pamela D. Buck
State Office Representative
U.S. Senator Susan Collins
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202-834-2907 Cell/Text



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From: Buck, Pam (Collins)
Sent: Thursday, August 3, 2023 4:43 PM
To: 'jdow@kitteryschools.com' <jdow@kitteryschools.com>
Cc: 'towncomments@kitteryme.org' <towncomments@kitteryme.org>
Subject: Kittery School District regards to Federal Impact Aid Programs

Dear Julie Dow and Judy Spiller,

I am communicating to inform you both that York County District Office for Senator Collins did recently receive your letter, see attached.

Regarding Kittery School District's funding concerns related to the Federal Impact Aid program.

Your letter has been recently reviewed by York County District Office and Senator Collins DC staff for a response which I should be able to provide back shortly. In the future, any request or concern please address or send your letters directly to our office for prompt response. I apologize, your letter was directed to the Augusta office before being transferred back to us.

Thank you again and my contact information is below for future assistance, Pam

Pamela D. Buck
State Office Representative
U.S. Senator Susan Collins
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8/9/23, 9:26 AM

RE: Kittery School District regards to Federal Impact Aid P... - town comments

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Emery Field Park Renovation playground completion

Tim Norrad Mon 8/21/2023 9:35 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Greetings,

I was wondering what the status is of the Emery Field Park Renovation playground completion?

I see the town meeting election results from June 13th voted yes on article 12 to transfer unassigned funds to complete this portion.

Tim Norrad
5 MacDougal Street