



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JOINT BASE GARRISON HEADQUARTERS, JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD
1010 LIGGETT AVENUE, BOX 339500, MAIL STOP 1AA
JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, WA 98433-9500

September 15, 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As the school year gets underway, I would like to take this opportunity to lend my assistance as the Joint Base Lewis McChord Garrison Commander to the many local school districts both on and off the installation. Their job is crucial as they educate thousands of our students every year.

Our school districts will be mailing home a *Federal Impact Aid Survey Form*. If you are a military member serving in Washington State or if you are a DoD civilian working on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, your participation is critical and you are urged to please complete the survey and return it to your child's school district.

The money associated with this program comes from the Department of Education and can only be applied to a district that is educating a military or federal employee-related student. These forms are kept confidential and destroyed after validation has been accomplished through a federal audit of the district.

The survey will come to your home on or around 1 October 2023 or you will receive an email requesting that you fill out the form electronically and return for each child attending school. Please sign and return the form(s) to the school district as soon as possible.

Ensuring you provide the information requested helps the districts prepare for the next generation of military children connected entering their schools.

If you have any questions regarding the survey, please don't hesitate to contact the Joint Base Lewis McChord School Support Services at 253-967-7195.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent W. Park", is positioned above the typed name.

Kent W. Park
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Federal Impact Aid Survey

1. MAJOR POINTS:

a. The Federal Impact Aid program is managed through the Department of Education to compensate school districts for lost tax revenue due to a military presence.

b. Major points:

(1) The districts serving the largest numbers of military children receive Impact Aid, not all districts educating military children qualify to apply. The enrollment of federally-connected children in the district must be at least 400 or 3 percent of Average Daily Attendance.

(2) A school district's Impact Aid payment is based in part on the count of federally-connected, including military children, who attend schools in the district. The money, however, is not designated "for" individual children. Impact Aid payments are provided in lieu of lost tax revenue and thus go into the district's general fund. Impact Aid funds are not earmarked for any specific school.

(3) Congress recognizes the need faced by many school districts educating military children because of large numbers, frequent movements, and need for additional counseling and other resources to support children during the military service of their parents.

(4) The Impact Aid program cannot be responsive to sudden increases in school population due to military orders. Funding for the current school year is provided based on the student count made during the previous school year. Therefore, it is normal for payments be two years behind the year that the Survey Form for Impact Aid is submitted. If Congress is delayed in passing an appropriations bill, school districts can, therefore, face temporary shortfalls as they wait for their Impact Aid payments. These shortfalls will have an even greater impact if the district is also trying to accommodate growing enrollments.

2. STAFF COORDINATION: None

3. ISSUES/STAFF CONCERNS: None

4. RECOMMENDATION(S)

Recommend that the Joint Base Commander support and sign the enclosed form to be given to each of the school district superintendents to include with the district Federal Impact Aid Survey form that is sent home with each student the first week of October.

Norma Melo
253-967-7195

Federal Impact Aid Survey

1. Since 1950, Congress has provided financial assistance to military-impacted local education agencies (LEAs) through the U. S. Department of Education Impact Aid Program. Impact Aid was designed to compensate local school districts that have lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal property, including military installations, or that have experienced increased expenditures due to the enrollment of federally connected children, such as military and Indian students.
2. The Department of Defense (DoD) plays no part in the development, determination, or distribution of resources. This funding is an important source of funding for LEAs that educate military children and does not cover the full cost of educating military children. It is intended to ensure LEAs provide a quality education for our military children. The DoD does not make payment to any LEA for education of military children.
3. LEA's provide parents with survey in which the federal (military) status of parents is documented, to determine the total number of military-connected students in each LEA. This anonymous information is provided to the U.S. Department of Education to determine if the LEA meets the minimum requirements for receiving Impact Aid funding.
4. Impact Aid funds are not earmarked for any specific school and do not follow the child, but are used to support the LEA as a whole. Impact Aid is the federal government's "tax payment" to the LEAS for property taken off the local tax rolls; therefore, Impact Aid funds are intended by law to be treated as other local tax revenue.
5. Joint Base Lewis-McChord supports the LEAs Impact Aid Survey and is committed to supporting the LEAs in collecting the data needed to apply for payment from the Department of Education.
6. Request that the date posted on letter be dated 15 September 2023 regardless of how early the letter is signed. We will forward the signed copy to the school districts via electronic mail.
7. Request that the Joint Base Commander sign the Impact Aid Letter to be distributed to the School Districts for distribution. RED TAB

Prepared by: Norma M. Melo, 967-7195