



Expressing Support for the Impact Aid Program and Concern Regarding Recent Staff Reductions at the U.S. Department of Education

WHEREAS, the Impact Aid program, established in 1950, provides critical federal assistance to local educational agencies that lose property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal property and/or educate federally connected children, including military-dependent students, Native American students, and children living on federal lands or in low-income housing; and

WHEREAS, Middletown Public Schools relies on Impact Aid as a vital source of general operating funds to ensure high-quality educational opportunities and maintain fiscal stability for all students in our district, which is impacted by the federal presence at Naval Station Newport; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2025, in response to a directive from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the U.S. Department of Education conducted a Reduction in Force (RIF) affecting 14 employees within the Impact Aid Program office, providing 60-day advance notices during the ongoing federal government shutdown; and

WHEREAS, although the Department has stated that no staff will be separated before the 60-day transition period and that the program will remain under its current leadership, these staff reductions threaten to disrupt the administration of a program essential to more than 1,000 federally impacted school districts nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the Impact Aid program's success depends on a stable, experienced, and adequately staffed federal team to process applications, provide technical assistance, and ensure timely payments to school districts; and

WHEREAS, while the President's FY2026 budget proposal reaffirms a commitment to Impact Aid funding, the recent RIF raises significant concerns about the Department's capacity to carry out these responsibilities effectively when government operations resume; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan congressional support has long sustained Impact Aid as a cornerstone of federal responsibility to federally connected communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Committee of Middletown Public Schools expresses its strong support for the Impact Aid program and urges the U.S. Department of Education and the Administration to maintain full staffing and administrative capacity within the Impact Aid office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Middletown School Committee calls upon Congress to ensure adequate oversight and resources to preserve the continuity and effectiveness of the Impact Aid program for all federally connected school districts; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to our Members of Congress, the U.S. Department of Education, and the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) to convey this Board's concern and continued support for the Impact Aid program.

Middletown School Committee

Date: _____