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Dates to Remember:

2005 NAFIS Fall Conference
September 25-27, 2005
Washington, D.C.

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NAFIS Prepares for Fall Conference

More than 425 school administrators and school board members will be in Washington beginning this Saturday, September 24 to attend the NAFIS annual fall conference. The conference will take place at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill on Sunday, September 25.

Attendees will visit congressional offices on Tuesday, September 27. Their request to Congress will be to adopt in the final FY 2006 appropriation package the numbers as contained in the House passed bill (H.R. 3010) and the Senate committee mark. Funding levels for Impact Aid are the same in both the House and Senate bill. Although the overall aggregate number is slightly less than current funding, both bills realign Impact Aid line items to ensure modest increases in both federal property funding (Section 8002) and basic support (Section 8003).

“It is important we maintain the numbers in both bills and hope Congress can avoid any across-the-board cuts that would, in the end, move these numbers downward,” said NAFIS Executive Director John B. Forkenbrock. “We have worked hard as a community to bring forth a set of numbers recognizing the challenges faced by Congress. The demand for federal spending has never been higher and the current need to provide assistance to those affected by the disasters plaguing the gulf coast have placed an even greater strain on the federal budget. We have accepted a freeze in funding, but we need some assurance our funding levels, thus far agreed to by Congress, are not compromised for across-the-board cuts to fund or add dollars to other federal programs.”

Other concerns NAFIS members will express to Congress will be the potential impact the Department of Defense global re-basing initiative will have on federally connected school districts. The potential of adding as many as 32,000 additional military-dependent students to the program over the next five years could have a devastating impact on the program if additional dollars are not added to the program to absorb the increase in military dependent children enrolling in state-side public schools. Conference participants will also hear from education experts discussing issues such as retaining teachers in rural and urban school districts and how to address the social and psychological needs of “at risk” children.

IEP Information for displaced students

School districts enrolling students with disabilities from other states can utilize an information database (Special Education Automation System) to ensure IEP information is transferred to the receiving district. This web-based data management system is being used in a majority of the districts affected by Hurricane Katrina. Districts in need of this service should contact Emily Sanders, Regional Coordinator at Emily@seasweb.net or at 877-221-7327.