

Tac Titooqan Article
March 2014

What is Impact Aid?

The purpose of Impact Aid is to provide formula grants to school districts burdened by the presence of nontaxable federal land and installations to make up for the lost revenues and additional costs associated with the federal presence. It is one of the few formula programs where Local Educational Agencies receive funds directly from the U.S. Department of Education rather than through their states. Impact Aid was first signed into law by President Harry S. Truman in 1950 and has been amended many times since then.

This program provides a payment in lieu of local taxes otherwise collected for Local Educational Agencies that are burdened by the presence of nontaxable federal land and installations, but are nonetheless responsible for educating children of federal personnel who live and/or work on these properties. Except for money earmarked specifically for children with disabilities, the aid becomes part of the Local Educational Agencies regular budget, and no specific restrictions are placed on the use of the funds.

After reviewing the results of the 2013-2014 Impact Aid Questionnaire, three learning needs emerged as the highest priority to parents and patrons of the Lapwai School District.

- I. Continued K-12 opportunities for after school & summer school programs.
 - a. The Lapwai School District recently reapplied for the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant to bring back the full program offerings we had last year which include academic tutoring, enrichment, and Nez Perce Language Instruction.
 - b. Currently, with available funding, after program tutoring is available at our Elementary School Monday through Thursday from 3:30 to 4:00 for grades 3, 4, and 5.
 - c. JOM, Title VII, Upward Bound, and Gear Up provide tutoring, credit recovery, and Saturday school opportunities at our Middle-High School.

- II. Small class size and student to teacher ratio.
 - a. The State Average Teacher to Student Ratio is 18:1
 - b. The Lapwai Average Teacher to Student Ratio is 13:1
 - c. Lapwai has 10.67 teachers that the State of Idaho does not pay for at State rates
 - d. Lapwai has TWO full time Kindergarten Teachers; State Funds Only Pay for ONE
 - e. Lapwai Has Full Time Pre-School Staff; State Funds Pays For 1/3 of a PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER

- III. More real world experience in and out of school and advanced use of technology.
 - a. The BPA (Business Professional Association) and FFA (Future Farmers of America) provide career awareness, work experience, and professional-technical opportunities for our students.
 - b. University of Idaho Upward Bound has an office at the High School. Their college preparation services include ACT assistance, dual enrollment opportunities, campus visits, and financial aid assistance.

- c. Gear Up is a grant awarded to the District serving students in grades 8-12. It provides tutoring, a four-year renewable scholarship opportunity, financial aid and ACT assistance, and campus visits. Career exploration is a central component to Gear Up program offerings.
- d. There are several academic and professional-technical opportunities for dual credit.
- e. For those High School students with a 2.8 or higher GPA there is an Introduction to College Studies class available first semester and Advanced College Studies class available second semester through a partnership with Lewis-Clark State College.
- f. Elementary students regularly use iPads and laptops for technology programs such as Compass Learning, Failure Free Reading, IXL Math, typing tutoring, Discovery Education, Smarter Balanced Assessment practice, and Shurley English.
- g. Middle-High school students regularly use iPads, computers, and laptops for Compass Learning, Star Reading, Star Math, PLATO, IDLA, IXL Math, Smarter Balanced Assessment practice, and Career Information Systems.
- h. The Middle-High has a College and Career Readiness Professional Learning Community working on a research-based approach to preparing students for graduation and the requirements and challenges after high school.
- i. Dual enrollment courses and online classes through the Idaho Digital Learning Academy provide opportunities for advanced coursework with our High School students.
- j. BPA, FFA, and Nez Perce Language students are participating in academic competitions with great success.
- k. High School science students are also participating in competitions through the University of Idaho.

I would like to thank the Board of Trustees, Indian Parent Committee, Lapwai Education Association President, and our District Administrators for their input in creating this year's survey. The survey was widely distributed in the following ways:

- 1) Distributed to all Nez Perce Tribe and Nimiipuu Health employees by email
- 2) Available on the District website at www.lapwaidistrict.org
- 3) Linked at the Lapwai School District Facebook Page: Lapwai School District #341
- 4) Sent home with all students Preschool through 12th Grade
- 5) Copies available at the District Office at 271 B. St.
- 6) Available at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 20th