

NAFIS Special Legislative Update - President Signs FY2008 Omnibus Spending Package

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FY2008 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS PACKAGE/IMPACT AID PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

The President signed HR2764, the FY2008 Department of State/Foreign Operations Appropriations bill that contains the FY2008 omnibus appropriations package amendment, on December 26. The House passed HR 2764 on December 19 by a vote of 272-142 (Roll Call Vote 1186). The Senate approved the bill on December 18 by a vote of 76-17 (Roll Call Vote 441) after adding \$70 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Senate had to send the bill back to the House for its final consideration. The \$555 billion omnibus appropriations package contained the eleven remaining appropriations bills. Congress only passed FY2008 Department of Defense Appropriations prior to passage of HR 2764. The omnibus appropriations package provides a \$13.668 million increase for Section 8003 (Basic Support). The omnibus package provides an across-the-board 1.75 percent cut to various education programs, including Sections 8002, 8003d, 8007, 8008 of the Impact Aid Program, from HR 3043 to adhere to the President's FY2008 overall budget request. HR 3043 is the FY2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations conference report that was vetoed by the President in November that provided a \$34.35 million increase for the Impact Aid Program. The FY2008 Impact Aid Program appropriations breakdown is as follows:

IMPACT AID PROGRAM

Section 8002 (Federal Properties) - \$64.208 million (\$142,000 decrease)
Section 8003 (Basic Support) - \$1,105,535,000 billion (\$13.668 million increase)
Section 8003d (Disabilities) - \$48.602 million (\$864,000 decrease)
Section 8007 (School Construction) - \$17.509 million (\$311,000 decrease)
Section 8008 (Facilities) - \$4.864 million (\$86,000 decrease)

NAFIS continues to work to secure increased funding for the rest of the sections of the Impact Aid Program.

The omnibus appropriations package provides **\$59.2 billion for federal education programs for FY2008 (2.9 percent increase). The measure also provides the following:**

- **\$13.9 billion to Title I program for disadvantaged students (8.6% increase over the \$12.8 billion appropriated for FY2007)**
- **\$10.9 billion for K-12 state grants under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a nearly 1 percent increase over FY2007 level of \$10.8 billion**
- **\$2.93 billion to help states improve the quality of their teachers (1.7 percent increase)**

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