



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

March 31, 2026

MEMORANDUM TO ALL LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES IN ALASKA

Pursuant to section 7009, title VII, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (“the Act”), the U.S. Department of Education (Department) received notification from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (State) sent March 3, 2025, of its intent to consider a portion of payments received under the Impact Aid Program as local revenues in determining State aid payments for the period July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 (state fiscal year (FY) 2027). The notification included final FY 2025 data from the State in support of the State’s request for certification under the revenue disparity standard (section 7009(b)(2) and 34 C.F.R. §222.162).

The determination for FY 2027 will be based on these data. Copies of the data are available from the State on their website at <https://education.alaska.gov/schoolfinance/foundationfunding>.

Section 7009(c)(2) of the Act requires that, prior to issuing a determination for any fiscal year, the Department must give local educational agencies (LEAs) an opportunity to “present their views.” Section 7009(d)(1) provides, in relevant part, that:

If a State has in effect a program of State aid for free public education for any fiscal year, which is designed to equalize expenditures for free public education among the local educational agencies of that State, payments under this title for any fiscal year may be taken into consideration by such State in determining the relative-

- (A) financial resources available to local educational agencies in that State; and
- (B) financial need of such agencies for the provision of free public education for children served by such agency, except that a State may consider as local resources funds received under this title only in proportion to the share that local tax revenues covered under a State equalization program are of total local tax revenues.

In other words, if the State is certified under section 7009, it may reduce an LEA’s State aid by an amount equal to a certain proportion of the assistance that LEA has received under the Impact Aid Program. The Department’s regulations at 34 C.F.R. 222.160-222.163 provide the standards that a State must meet for the Department to authorize the State to consider Impact Aid payments. See <https://ecfr.federalregister.gov/current/title-34/subtitle-B/chapter-II/part-222/subpart-K>.

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If your LEA would like a hearing to present its views with respect to the FY 2027 determination, you must make that request within 30 days of the date of this memorandum, by email to Faatimah Muhammad, Director, Impact Aid Program at Faatimah.Muhammad@ed.gov.

If we receive a timely hearing request, we will hold a predetermination hearing at a date to be announced. If we do not receive a timely written request for a hearing, we will proceed with the determination.

Please note that disagreement with the Federal law, Federal regulations or the State's policy is not a proper reason for requesting a hearing. A hearing should be requested and will be granted only on the basis stated in this memorandum, i.e., whether the State's program and actions meet the specific standards in the Impact Aid statute and regulations.

Sincerely,

Faatimah Muhammad, Director
Impact Aid Program

cc: Heather Heineken
Lori Weed
Jared DeLara