

Senate approves \$70 million to aid education

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Senate recently approved legislation authorizing elementary and secondary education programs, including impact aid which provides over \$70 million per year in educational assistance for schools in Alaska.

Sen. Ted Stevens is a cosponsor of the impact aid portion of the legislation.

Impact aid helps to compensate school districts for the tax revenues that cannot be collected from tax-exempt entities. Examples include federal lands and property and Native lands located within the school district.

The amount of impact aid provided to a school district is determined by the number of children who reside and/or whose parents work on federal property. This includes children residing on Native lands or in federally subsidized low-rent housing.

School districts in the state received approximately \$75 million in impact aid in 1986 and \$80 million in 1987.

School districts are able to use impact aid funds to assist with the operating costs of their programs and for maintenance and repair.

"Last year, we were successful in earmarking \$2 million in impact aid for performing life-safety code compliance work on nine school facilities at Ft. Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base," Stevens said. I am currently working with the Department of Education and the state to obtain \$5 million for asbestos abatement at Ft.

Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage," he added.

The education bill, which was approved recently by the full Senate, also authorizes federal funding for grants which provide financial assistance to state and local educational agencies. The funds are used to meet the special educational needs of disadvantaged children, handicapped children in state-run programs and neglected or delinquent children.

The bolck grant program authorized under the legislation provides federal funds to state educational agencies for dropout prevention programs and projects to encourage gifted and talented students. It also provides assistance for the purchase of library materials and for teacher training.

The legislation passed also authorizes funding for a program to link universities, colleges and secondary schools across the country by sat-

tellite. The project, called the Star School Program, would provide grants to enable schools to receive via satellite math, science, and foreign language classes taught in other schools.

This bill authorizes nationwide funding for education programs for fiscal years 1988-1993. The actual amount of money that finally will be made available will be determined by annual appropriations bills.