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NAFIS Opposes Education Budget: Calls on Congress to Reject Cut to Impact Aid

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Today, the Trump Administration released its complete Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 budget, “A New Foundation for American Greatness.” The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) opposes the Administration’s FY 2018 request because it slashes U.S. Department of Education funding, eliminates Impact Aid Federal Properties, and diverts critical resources away from the public school system. “We should be investing in public education, not cutting Federal support,” said NAFIS Executive Director Hilary Goldmann.

The budget justification on the elimination of Impact Aid Federal Properties funding states, “The Administration requests no funds for payments for Federal Property because these payments compensate LEAs for lost property tax revenue due to the presence of Federal lands without regard to whether those districts educate any federally connected children.”

Impact Aid is a direct Federal responsibility as it reimburses taxpayers for a loss of local tax revenue due to a Federal activity. “The obligation inherent in Impact Aid is the same for all federally impacted districts whether they are educating federally-connected students or they have lost part of their tax base due to Federal annexation of land,” said Goldmann. “The bottom line is school districts rely on local tax revenue each year for staffing, programs and operations. The impact of this loss would result in cuts to personnel and professional

development, academic materials, transportation, technology, and other general operating expenses.”

NAFIS calls on the Congress to reject the Administration’s budget proposal, repeal the sequester caps, and increase the Federal education investment. For FY 2018, NAFIS recommends a \$2 million increase for Federal Properties as a step to alleviate the costs to taxpayers for newly acquired Federal property, and a \$50 million increase for Basic Support to adequately address the rising costs of education in communities with concentrations of federally-connected students. These investments are critical to meeting the Federal Government’s obligation to the students, schools, and taxpayers in federally impacted communities.

NAFIS is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association of school districts from throughout the United States. For more than 40 years, NAFIS has educated Congress on the importance of Impact Aid to ensure federally impacted schools districts receive the resources necessary to provide their students a quality education. NAFIS serves as the umbrella organization to four subgroups: Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association, Military Impacted Schools Association, National Indian Impacted Schools Association and Mid-to-Low LOT Schools.

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