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NAFIS Opposes President's Education Budget: Calls on Congress to Invest in Impact Aid

(WASHINGTON, DC) – The Trump Administration released its “skinny” budget – “America First – A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again” – which includes a \$9 billion (13-percent) cut to the U.S. Department of Education. The budget request includes the elimination of the Federal Properties (Section 7002) portion of the Impact Aid Program, a \$67 million cut.

“The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools opposes slashing the U.S. Department of Education’s budget as included in President Trump’s first budget request and we oppose the elimination of Federal Properties Impact Aid funding,” said NAFIS Executive Director Hilary Goldmann. “We should be investing in education, not cutting Federal support!”

The obligation inherent in Impact Aid is the same for all federally impacted districts whether they are educating Federal students or they have lost their tax base due to Federal annexation of land. In both cases, Impact Aid ensures the Federal government’s presence does not put these school districts at a disadvantage when compared with other districts unaffected by a Federal presence. The elimination of Federal Properties funding would result in cuts to personnel and professional development, academic materials, transportation, technology, and other general operating expenses.

“NAFIS calls on Congress to step up and meet the Federal government’s obligation to the taxpayers who reside in the communities affected by a Federal presence. To fulfill its responsibility to taxpayers, NAFIS recommends Congress provide in FY 18 a \$2 million increase for Federal Properties Impact Aid, the first increase this provision would receive since FY 10 while more land has been taken off the tax rolls, and \$35 million for Basic Support Impact Aid in an attempt to keep up with the rising costs of education.”

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

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