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Superintendent Helen Payne Elected Region I Director of NAFIS Board

Washington, DC – April 27, 2021 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) is pleased to announce that Helen Payne, Superintendent of North Hanover Township Schools (New Jersey), has been re-elected to the NAFIS Board of Directors. She represents Region I, which includes the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States. The election took place at the 2021 NAFIS Spring Virtual Conference.

As a member of the NAFIS Board of Directors, Payne works with other board members to establish and review major policy and plans for the association. She also serves as a national leader in advocating for school districts that receive Impact Aid.

Impact Aid reimburses school districts for the loss of revenue caused by the presence of nontaxable Federal property, including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. It helps ensure students who attend schools on or near Federal property have access to a quality education.

"North Hanover Township School District is approximately 70% military connected, and most of those families live on federal property, representing a significant loss of local property taxes to fund our schools. Impact Aid is a critical tax replacement program, representing 40% of our revenue and paying for salaries, facilities, instructional supplies, special programming to meet the needs of transitional students, and every other expense associated with providing a high quality education to all students," said Payne.

"It is a privilege to serve as a member of the NAFIS Board, to participate in organizational policy decisions, problem solve with dedicated colleagues from across the country who are committed to advocating for federally connected students in all sections of the Impact Aid program, and to provide leadership and representation for the federally connected school districts in Region 1," she continued.

Payne is now in her tenth year as superintendent in North Hanover, and she previously served as superintendent in Avon School District (NJ) for six years. Prior to that, she served the education field in many capacities, including as an elementary teacher, principal and assistant superintendent.

Payne has served as the NAFIS New Jersey State Chair for nine years and been a member of the NAFIS Board of Directors since 2015. She is also involved in the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA), a NAFIS subgroup, and currently serves as Secretary on their Executive Board.

"The NAFIS Board plays a critical role in ensuring that students in federally impacted school districts have access to the opportunities they need to reach their full potential," said NAFIS Executive Director Hilary Goldmann. "Helen brings important insight into the needs of these districts, their students and their communities that will help shape NAFIS advocacy, as well as a wealth of experience and ideas from which the association will continue to benefit."

Payne's term will last for two years.

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents the 1,100-plus federally impacted public school districts that together educate more than 10 million students across the nation. Federally impacted school districts are those located on or near nontaxable Federal property—including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national parks, national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. These school districts, which are demographically and geographically diverse, receive Impact Aid, a Federal education program that reimburses school districts for the lost local revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of Federal property. To learn more, visit www.nafisd.org.