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NAFIS Engages Bernstein Strategy Group on Government Relations

Washington, DC – February 8, 2022 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) is pleased to announce that we have retained Bernstein Strategy Group (BSG) for government relations work for the next several months, as we transition to a new executive director and policy lead.

Jon Bernstein is BSG Founder and President, and he will serve as our primary contact with the firm.

Bernstein has more than 25 years of experience in education, appropriations, technology and telecommunications policy. He began his Washington, DC tenure in 1994 as a legislative fellow for Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). He started working in education advocacy the following year when he became legislative counsel for The Lightspan Partnership, an educational software company, and later lobbyist for the National Education Association (NEA). He then worked for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) before beginning in private practice, and he launched BSG in 2005.

Today, Bernstein works closely with many of the major k-12 education associations as co-chair of both the Education and Libraries Networks Coalition (EdLiNC) and the Homework Gap Big Tent Coalition and as Executive Director of the National Coalition for Technology in Education and Training (NCTET), of which NAFIS is a member. He also helps lead the Principals Group, which focuses on professional development funding and related issues.

Throughout the contract with NAFIS, Bernstein will work closely with NAFIS staff while advocating on, monitoring and tracking NAFIS priority legislation; preparing and filing regulatory comments and advising regarding group comments and replies; representing NAFIS before Congress, the White House and executive agencies in advocacy meetings; and providing support at NAFIS conferences, among other services.

NAFIS is pleased to welcome Jon and BSG to this new role.

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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 https://www.nafisdc.org/.