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NAFIS Honors FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel

Washington, DC – September 26, 2022 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) honored Jessica Rosenworcel, Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), with a special recognition award presented at the 2022 NAFIS Fall Conference.

NAFIS represents more than 1,100 school districts that receive Impact Aid. This federal education program 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; and national parks, 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. Many Impact Aid school districts experience challenges regarding student and educator internet access at home, an issue that became increasingly urgent with the shift to virtual learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chairwoman Rosenworcel has worked tirelessly throughout her career to promote greater opportunity, accessibility and affordability in communications services. She coined the phrase “the homework gap” to describe the educational inequity experienced by students who lack internet access at home, raising visibility on the issue well before the pandemic shone a bright light on it.

Due in large part to her dedication and perseverance, there has been growing recognition among Members of Congress and other policymakers of the need to address the homework gap, and substantial funds were allotted for this purpose in COVID relief and other bills. As a result, many school districts – including many NAFIS members and other federally impacted school districts – have been able to implement creative solutions to address the homework gap and connect students, educators, and families at home.

“Thanks to Chairwoman Rosenworcel’s efforts, countless students in federally impacted school districts and across the country now have access to the substantial educational opportunities afforded by highspeed internet,” said NAFIS Executive Director Nicole Russell. “We look forward to continuing to support the Chairwoman’s work to further expand and maintain access to the internet for all learners.”

The NAFIS Family joins together in congratulating Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel on her outstanding achievements in increasing student access to internet connectivity and in thanking her for her continued dedication to this cause.

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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.nafisdc.org.