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Superintendent Keith Mispagel Elected President of the NAFIS Board

Washington, DC – March 20, 2023 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) is pleased to announce that Keith Mispagel, Superintendent of Fort Leavenworth Unified School District #207 (Kansas), has been elected President of the NAFIS Board of Directors. The election took place at the 2023 NAFIS Spring Conference in Washington, DC.

As the President of the NAFIS Board, Mispagel will serve as a national leader advocating for school districts that receive Impact Aid. He assumes this role after nearly nine years on the Board, including the past two years as Vice-President and the two years prior to that as Secretary.

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 ensures that students who attend schools on or near Federal property have access to a quality education.

Mispagel is in his thirteenth year as superintendent of Fort Leavenworth Unified School District. Prior to this role, he served as a deputy superintendent, elementary principal, and teacher in Fort Leavenworth. He has proudly dedicated 25 years to the school district.

“As a school district serving a high concentration of frequently mobile military families, Fort Leavenworth School District works hard each year to provide high-quality education and environment for our families. With an annual student turnover averaging 55% each year, we are dedicated to supporting students and families with academic, social-emotional, and community involvement to have a positive impact whether a student is here for one year or many,” Mispagel said. “Federal Impact Aid funding is critical to our operations, capital projects, student services, and activities every year. Because USD 207 is completely on Federal property, we do not have a tax base, and we rely on this funding for annual support.”

“I look forward to leading the NAFIS Board of Directors and NAFIS member districts from across the country as President,” he continued. “I am humbled to serve in this leadership capacity, working collaboratively with all members from each of our subgroups with a laser-sharp focus on supporting the more than 1,100 federally impacted school districts educating over 10 million students. NAFIS has a long history of working together successfully for our students, and I’m excited to continue this charge forward.”

In addition to his work with NAFIS, Mispagel has sat for 16 years on the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) Executive Board and has served as the President of MISA for the past 10 years.

“Keith’s experience as both an advocate for Impact Aid and an educator and administrator serving the students who depend on the program positions him well for this leadership role,” said NAFIS Executive Director Nicole Russell. “Keith’s commitment to the entire Impact Aid program, insights into the needs of these school districts, and innovative mindset as we adapt to a changing social and political context will help guide NAFIS forward. I look forward to working with him in his new role as President.”

Mispagel’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.