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Waynesville R-VI Superintendent Hilary Bales Elected to NAFIS Board of Directors

Washington, DC – March 13, 2025 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) is pleased to announce that Hilary Bales, Superintendent of Waynesville R-VI School District (Missouri), has been elected to the NAFIS Board of Directors. She serves as Region 3 Director, representing Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. The election took place at the 2025 NAFIS Spring Conference.

As a member of the NAFIS Board, Bales serves as a national leader advocating for school districts that receive Impact Aid. She also helps shape NAFIS public policy priorities and oversees planning for the association.

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.

Bales comes from a heavily impacted school district, serving military families connected to Fort Leonard Wood. She began her career with Waynesville R-VI in 2001 as a special education teacher, also working as special education process coordinator, assistant principal, principal, director of special services, and assistant superintendent before assuming her current role.

Bales also serves as the Missouri State Chair for NAFIS and is highly engaged in volunteer service and community involvement. She is a member of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) and the President-elect for the South-Central region of the Missouri Association of School Administrators (MASA). She is secretary of both the Leonard Wood Institute (LWI) and the Missouri Educators Trust (MET), a steering team member of the Integrated Weather Team, and active in Rotary, Committee of Fifty, and the Chamber of Commerce.

"Serving on the NAFIS Board is an opportunity to be a voice for communities that rely on federal funding for their schools," said Bales. "It's a privilege to be part of a team advocating for the children and educators who are working hard to build a better future."

"The NAFIS Board plays an essential role in ensuring students in federally impacted school districts have the opportunities they need to reach their potential," said NAFIS Executive Director Nicole Russell. "Hilary's deep understanding of these districts' unique needs, combined with her extensive experience in education, advocacy, and community engagement, will strengthen NAFIS work as we navigate the changing landscape of public education."

Bales's term on the NAFIS Board will last for two years.

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents approximately 1,100 federally impacted public school districts that together educate more than eight 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. Learn more at www.nafisd.org.