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Rosemarie Kraeger, Retired Middletown Superintendent, Honored with Friend of NAFIS Award

Washington, D.C. – March 23, 2026 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) is proud to announce that Rosemarie Kraeger, retired superintendent of Middletown Public Schools (RI), has received the Friend of NAFIS Award. The award, presented at the 2026 NAFIS Spring Conference, celebrates individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Impact Aid Program and the communities it serves.

Impact Aid reimburses school districts for lost local revenue caused by the presence of nontaxable federal property, including military installations; Indian trust, restricted, and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; federal low-income housing facilities; and national parks, laboratories, and other federal buildings and property. The program helps ensure that students in these communities have access to a high-quality education, making strong advocacy and leadership on the issue essential.

Kraeger has dedicated more than four decades to public education, including her tenure as Superintendent of Middletown Public Schools, a district closely connected to Naval Station Newport. There, she developed a strong understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Impact Aid districts while seeing firsthand the vital role the program plays in supporting students in these communities.

A respected leader within NAFIS, Kraeger has served on the Board of Directors since 2017 and as longtime Rhode Island State Chair. In these roles, she has championed policies and funding to strengthen federally impacted schools while guiding NAFIS's advocacy efforts.

She has also served with the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) as Rhode Island Commissioner and later as Commission Chair, helping ensure smooth transitions and support for military-connected students across state lines. Known for her strong and meaningful connections with congressional leaders, Kraeger keeps advocacy focused on the real needs of students and families.

"Rosemarie's leadership, trusted relationships with policymakers, tireless advocacy for Impact Aid, and unwavering commitment to students have made a lasting impact on federally impacted communities," said NAFIS Executive Director Cherise Imai. "She embodies what it means to be a true Friend of NAFIS, and her legacy will continue to shape our work for years to come."

The entire NAFIS Family congratulates Rosemarie Kraeger on this well-deserved honor and thanks her for enduring dedication to Impact Aid and the students it serves.

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents approximately 1,100 federally impacted public school districts that together educate nearly eight million students across the nation. Federally impacted school districts are those located on or near nontaxable federal property, including military installations; Indian trust, restricted, 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 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.