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Fort Thomas Superintendent Shane Hawkins Appointed to NAFIS Board of Directors

Washington, D.C. – April 15, 2026 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) is pleased to announce that Shane Hawkins, Superintendent of Fort Thomas Unified School District (AZ), was appointed to the NAFIS Board of Directors at their 2026 NAFIS Spring Meeting. He fills the Region 5 seat and will represent Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona. In this role, Hawkins will help guide the association's advocacy and policy priorities on behalf of Impact Aid school districts nationwide while supporting its strategic direction.

Impact Aid reimburses school districts for lost local revenue caused by the presence of nontaxable federal property, including military installations, tribal lands, federal low-income housing, and national parks, laboratories, and other federal buildings and property. It helps ensure students in these communities have access to a high-quality education.

Hawkins has served as superintendent of Fort Thomas Unified School District, where more than 90% of students reside on the San Carlos Apache Reservation, since 2014. A strong advocate for federally impacted schools, he has been a member of the National Indian Impacted Schools Association (NIISA) Board of Directors for many years and currently serves as its secretary.

A lifelong member of the Fort Thomas community, Hawkins grew up in the district, graduated from Fort Thomas High School, and remains deeply engaged in local traditions. He is known for setting high expectations for students and fostering a culture of achievement and opportunity.

"Impact Aid is the great equalizer for schools with federal lands," Hawkins said. "It helps all our schools shrink the gap for our students and ensures every child has the opportunity to succeed."

Hawkins began his career as a science teacher before creating the district's first alternative education program. He later served as principal of Fort Thomas Jr.-Sr. High School, where he led curriculum development and expanded opportunities for students. In addition to his leadership role, he is a certified Qualified Evaluator through the Arizona School Administrators, a trained FEMA incident commander, and a participant in AdvancED's Quality Assurance Review. He remains actively involved in athletics, community programs, and local initiatives, reflecting his continued dedication to students and the Fort Thomas region.

"Shane's deep commitment to his community and his proven leadership make him an exceptional addition to our Board of Directors," said NAFIS Executive Director Cherise Imai. "His experience in Fort Thomas, combined with his strong advocacy knowledge, will bring an important and informed perspective to our efforts to strengthen Impact Aid for school districts across the nation."

Hawkins' term will last one year.

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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.