**2019 NAFIS Spring Conference: Telling Your DC Story Back Home**

NAFIS prepared the press release and Facebook post templates below to assist you in explaining the importance of Impact Aid and your participation in the NAFIS Conference to your community. Where there is highlighted text, please insert your own information. You can also make changes and add language to emphasize other issues important to your context.

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**Customizable Press Release***(can be modified to become a letter to the editor or for a school district newsletter)*

[INSERT DISTRICT LOGO OR PUT ON LETTERHEAD]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Insert date]

For more information, contact:

[Insert name and title (likely Superintendent/Director of Communications/School Board Member) of someone who reporters can contact for more information]
[Insert school district name]
[Insert contact information (e-mail address and/or phone number)]

**[Insert School District] Calls on Congress to Support Our Schools**

*District Leaders Advocate for Impact Aid*

**[Insert name of city/town, state] – [Insert date] –** Representatives of [insert name of school district] recently went to Washington, DC, to call Congress’ attention to the needs of area schools at the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) Spring Conference.

[Insert names and titles of attendees] joined school district leaders from across the United States to discuss and advocate for Impact Aid, an essential program that provides funding to federally impacted school districts like [insert name of school district]. Impact Aid reimburses these school districts for the loss of revenue caused by the presence of nontaxable federal property, such as [insert name of local federal property]. It helps ensure students who attend schools on or near such property have access to a quality education.

As part of the conference, [insert names of attendees] met with the staff for [insert name(s) of Members of Congress] to request that Congress increase funding for Impact Aid for FY 2020 and dedicate significant funds to address the infrastructure needs of federally impacted school districts. They explained the crucial role of Impact Aid in [insert name of school district] and shared the achievements and needs of schools and students.

 “Without Impact Aid, we wouldn’t be able to effectively serve our students,” said [insert name and title of district spokesperson]. “Impact Aid funds are used for [insert three or more items your district uses funds for, such as teacher salaries, school counselors, school buses or after-school programming] and much, much more. This funding is critical to providing our students the opportunities they need to maximize their potential, so it is important for us to travel to Washington and advocate directly to Congress for it.”

During the three-day conference, school district representatives received updates on Impact Aid from the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, they heard from national experts on a number of important education issues, including teacher retention, school safety and career-technical education.

“Every student who attends [insert name of school district] benefits from Impact Aid,” continued [insert last name of spokesperson]. “It is a program that our school district will continue to fight for.”

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Insert boilerplate language here, which should be one paragraph and include the school district name and key facts about it. It should end with, “To learn more, visit [insert school district website].”

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**Customizable Facebook Post for School District Page***(can be modified for personal use)*

[Insert school district name] representatives met with the staff for [insert name(s) of Members of Congress] to explain the crucial role that Impact Aid plays in our district, funding [insert two or three items your district uses it for, such as teacher salaries, school counselors, school buses or after-school programming] and much, much more. Impact Aid reimburses our school district for lost local revenue caused by the presence of nontaxable federal land. It is critical to providing our students the opportunities they need to maximize their potential, which is why it is so important for us to advocate directly to Congress for it.

At the meeting, district leaders also highlighted the achievements of our students and schools.

The trip to Capitol Hill was part of the NAFIS Spring Conference, where we also received important updates on the Impact Aid program directly from the U.S. Department of Education, discussed timely education issues and connected with other representatives of federally impacted school districts from across the country.

***If possible, include a photo of you with:***

* ***The congressional representative and/or staffer you met with,***
* ***The sign to the congressional office, OR***
* ***The U.S. Capitol building***