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Superintendent Jim Sarruda Recognized for NAFIS Leadership

Washington, DC – May 7, 2019 – At the 2019 Spring Conference, the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) honored Jim Sarruda, Superintendent of Northern Burlington County Regional School District (New Jersey), who served the past two years as NAFIS President. Sarruda will now transition into the Past President role.

As President of the NAFIS Board, Sarruda served as a national leader advocating for school districts that receive Impact Aid, the students they educate and the communities they serve. The NAFIS Board guides the association's public policy work and oversees plans 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.

Sarruda has been active in NAFIS for more than 25 years, joining the Board of Directors in 2007. He has also been actively involved in the establishment and growth of Mid-to-Low LOT Schools, one of the subgroups that make up the NAFIS Family, and has served as its President for the last four years. In addition, he has been engaged with the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) for over 25 years. He received a Governor's appointment to serve as a member of the New Jersey State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

"My school district is 25% federally connected students. Impact Aid is critical to our community," Sarruda said. "Our programs in STEM, Agriscience and Applied Technology have the advanced equipment and technologies they need because of the Impact Aid we receive. Impact Aid provides vital financial resources that allow us to maintain and grow all our comprehensive academic and extracurricular programs."

Sarruda has served as Superintendent of the Northern Burlington County Regional School District (NB), for the last 26 years. The NB school district proudly serves the families from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Sarruda has a long background in education, having worked in both public and private schools and taught students at the elementary through secondary level. He has also served as a coach, principal and area supervisor.

“Jim’s leadership has been a critical aspect of NAFIS success during the two years he served as President and throughout his tenure on the NAFIS Board,” said Executive Director Hilary Goldmann. “He has been a great teacher, learner, listener and connector, enhancing our united voice. On behalf of the NAFIS Family, I thank him for his service and commitment to strengthening Impact Aid, and I look forward to continuing to work with him.”

Sarruda will continue serving as a NAFIS leader as Immediate Past President for two years.

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents the 1,200-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.nafisdc.org.