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## **Sierra Sands School Board Member Amy Castillo-Covert Honored for Contributions to Impact Aid**

**Washington, DC – September 26, 2019** – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) has recognized Amy Castillo-Covert, member of the Sierra Sands Unified School District (CA) School Board, with the Friend of NAFIS Award. The award – which celebrates recipients for outstanding contributions to the Impact Aid program – was presented at the 2019 NAFIS Fall Conference.

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 parks, 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.

Castillo-Covert has been active in the Impact Aid community for more than 15 years. She has served in a number of capacities and is currently her school district's representative to NAFIS. She also sits on the executive boards of the Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (FLISA) and Mid-to-Low LOT Schools (MTLLS), both NAFIS subgroups.

"Amy has been an important voice for federally impacted school districts and the students they serve for many years," said Executive Director Hilary Goldmann. "In addition, the relationships she has formed with Federal elected officials have been key levers as we have strengthened Impact Aid and protected it from outside threats. I am pleased that NAFIS is recognizing her with this award, and I look forward to continuing to work with her to ensure students in federally impacted school districts have access to the educational opportunities they deserve."

"I was first exposed to Impact Aid in 2003, and I immediately recognized its value to our federally connected students," said Castillo-Covert. "This program is vitally important to ensure they are getting the resources and education they need. And if one wants to be part of the solution to challenges, one must be active and have a seat at the table. I appreciate the support I have received from the district, my fellow board members, the community and especially my family, which has allowed me to be a part of the Impact Aid community. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and our students."

Castillo-Covert began her service on the Sierra Sands Unified School District (which is impacted by Naval Air Warfare Center - China Lake) School Board in 2000 and has worked with state and Federal elected officials on a variety of constituent concerns, mostly related to education, since. She was elected to her sixth term on the board in November 2018. She is a graduate of the California School Boards Association Masters in Governance Program, and she has a background in family resource

serving families with special needs children. The district has served her children and grandchildren since 1985.

The entire NAFIS Family joins together in thanking Amy Castillo-Covert for her support of, and advocacy for, Impact Aid.

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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](http://www.nafisdc.org).