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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Indiana Department of Education Announces Summer Food Service Plan to Combat Child Hunger**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Department of Education is seeking community partners to participate in the 2015 Summer Food Service Program. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) fills a gap for thousands of Hoosier students during the summer months who live without access to proper nutrition. In 2014, the support of 257 sponsoring agencies and 1375 feeding sites enabled SFSP to serve more than 3 million free meals and snacks to low-income Hoosier children. However, the Indiana Department of Education is encouraging current SFSP sponsors to expand their programs by adding new locations and extending meal service throughout the summer months to address child hunger.

During the summer of 2014, a growing number of sponsors used new and innovative approaches to operate mobile feeding sites, taking free meals directly to children in parks, neighborhoods, and community centers. Due to an increase in the number of sponsors and the increased use of mobile sites, SFSP served an additional 84,000 meals to students during the 2014 summer months than in the previous year. However, the limited availability of meal sites and a lack of transportation continue to be obstacles in both rural Indiana and heavily populated cities alike, the Department is encouraging innovative solutions among all local stakeholders. This may include creative partnerships between local government, school corporations, community organizations and private sector groups.

The SFSP, created in 1968, is a federally funded program, operated through the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by states. Organizations are reimbursed for providing nutritious meals to eligible children in low-income areas during the summer. Sponsors, including schools, summer camps, community centers, and other organizations that focus on the well-being of children and families, must adhere to USDA regulations regarding the meal service and recordkeeping.

The Indiana Department of Education will host multiple training workshops for sponsors in Indianapolis and around the state. Attendance is required by all new and returning sponsoring agencies. To attend a workshop, please contact Marcia Yurczyk or Tina Skinner at the Indiana Department of Education at (317) 232-6610 or by email at [myurczyk@doe.in.gov](mailto:myurczyk@doe.in.gov) or [tskinner@doe.in.gov](mailto:tskinner@doe.in.gov). While additional feeding sites may be added by sponsors throughout the summer, the deadline to become a SFSP sponsor is April 30, 2015.

For more information on the SFSP view the webpage at <http://www.doe.in.gov/nutrition/summer-food-service-program>.

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