



Media Release

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Lugar and Bennett Ask Hoosiers to Support Summer Food Service Program

United States Senator Dick Lugar and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett are asking local organizations to sponsor the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in the 20 Indiana Counties where it currently does not operate. The SFSP feeds low-income children in the summer months when school is not in session.

“I am always amazed by the generosity of Hoosiers when it comes to providing for our students in need. The summer months can be difficult for families who may not have access to regular nutritious meals,” Senator Lugar said. “I am hopeful that additional sponsors will join our team and help provide meals to children across the state after the school year ends.”

With the help of more than 248 sponsors last year, the SFSP provided over 2.8 million free meals and snacks to low-income Hoosier children.

“Community groups and concerned citizens have provided growing support for this crucial program,” Dr. Bennett said. “And so many Indiana students and families are thankful for their dedication. But there’s still more work to do. It will take a team effort to make sure this program can provide meals to every Hoosier student in need of assistance.”

The Indiana Department of Education will host training workshops for sponsors around the state. For additional information or to attend a workshop, please contact Marcia Yurczyk or Tina Skinner at the Indiana Department of Education. They can be reached via phone at 317-232-0852 or 317-232-0858 and emailed at myurczyk@doe.in.gov or tskinner@doe.in.gov. The application deadline to become a SFSP sponsor is April 30, 2012.

In 1999, Senator Lugar authored the SFSP pilot program (“Lugar Pilots”) to simplify the reimbursement process for community centers supplying children with government funded lunches. Indiana was one of the original 13 states eligible for the program. Subsequently, Senator Lugar offered and passed legislation expanding the program nationwide and now, all states are reimbursed for meals served under the Summer Food Service Program using the simplified reimbursement process.

The SFSP, created in 1968, is a federally-funded program operated through the U.S State Department of Agriculture and administered by the states, which reimburse organizations for providing nutritious meals to eligible children during the summer. Sponsors include schools, summer camps, community centers, and other organizations that focus on the well-being of children and families.

For more information on the SFSP, go to <http://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/nutrition/summer-food-service-program>.