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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SEEKS NEW SPONSORS FOR SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Department of Education is seeking new sponsors to participate in the 2016 Summer Food Service Program. The Summer Food Service Program provides eligible children ages 18 and under with access to nutritious meals during the summer months. In 2015, more than 250 sponsors, including school corporations, local government agencies and community organizations, were able to serve students in high need areas; however, the Department is encouraging sponsors to expand their programs to feed children in underserved areas.

In 2015, Summer Food Service Program sponsors served nearly three million meals at more than 1400 feeding sites throughout the state. Despite the large number of meals served, fewer than 20% of all low-income Hoosier children that receive free or reduced lunch during the school year received free meals during the summer months. The Department is encouraging innovative ideas and partnerships to increase the number of meal sites and children being served through the Summer Food Service Program.

Since its establishment in 1968, the Summer Food Service Program has been funded and operated by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by the states. Participating organizations are reimbursed for their involvement in the program and must adhere to USDA regulations regarding meal service and recordkeeping.

The Indiana Department of Education will host multiple training workshops for participating sponsors in Indianapolis and across the state. Attendance is required for new and returning participants. The deadline to become a sponsor is April 30, 2016.

Additional information about the Summer Food Service Program, including how to participate in the training workshops, can be found on the Department's website: www.doe.in.gov/nutrition/summer-food-service-program.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
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