



For immediate release

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Three AYS After-school Programs Receive National Accreditation

The Council on Accreditation (COA) announced this month that the AYS programs at Nora Elementary School in Washington Township, IPS Rousseau McClellan Elementary School #91, and Stony Creek Elementary School in Noblesville have been awarded National Accreditation status. These three AYS sites are the first after-school programs in Indiana to receive accreditation status through the COA.

AYS is proud to participate in the movement to recognize high performing after-school programs and to continuously strive for transparency and quality improvement. AYS, Inc.'s President/CEO Ellen Clippinger said, "This is a team effort and the staff, parents and school personnel should be commended for their hard work to achieve this honor."

COA accreditation is an objective and reliable verification that programs such as these three AYS programs qualify for consumers, staff, board and funders' confidence and support. COA's After School Program Accreditation is an effective tool in advancing quality in after school programming that results in the well-being and safety of children and youth by focusing on the after school program's role in, and relationship to, building individual, family and community strengths through the implementation of accepted standards of best practice.

To achieve COA and After School accreditation, the three AYS programs first provided written evidence of compliance with our *After School Standards*. Thereafter, a group of specially trained volunteer Endorsers confirmed adherence to these standards during on-site interviews with staff, children and youth, as well as other stakeholders.

Based on their findings, the volunteer-based Accreditation Commission voted that all three of these AYS programs had successfully met the criteria for After School Accreditation.

AYS operates before- and after-school and early childhood programs for children throughout Central Indiana. With the addition of these programs, 8 AYS programs are now nationally accredited through the COA, the National Afterschool Association or the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

An endorsement of COA and the value of its accreditation process is reflected in it being named by the US State Department as the sole national independent accrediting body under the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption to accredit intercountry adoption service providers. In addition, COA is the only national accreditor designated by the U.S. Department of Defense to develop accreditation standards and processes for human service programs provided to military personnel and their families.

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