



For immediate release

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Two AYS Out-of-School Time Programs Receive National Accreditation

The Council on Accreditation (COA) announced yesterday that the AYS programs at Hazel Dell Elementary and Noble Crossing Elementary in Noblesville have been awarded National Accreditation status. These two sites join AYS' programs at Nora Elementary School in Washington Township, IPS Rousseau McClellan Elementary School #91, and Stony Creek Elementary School in Noblesville, which received COA accreditation last spring.

AYS is proud to participate in the movement to recognize high performing out-of-school time 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 five AYS programs qualify for consumers, staff, board and funders' confidence and support. COA's accreditation process is an effective tool in advancing quality in programming. High-quality programming results in the improved well-being and safety of children and youth by focusing on the out-of-school time 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 accreditation, the programs first provided written evidence of compliance with COA's *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.

AYS operates before- and after-school, early childhood and summer programs for children throughout Central Indiana. With the addition of these programs, 11 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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