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**SHERRI YBARRA**  
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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

## **HUNGER DOESN'T END WHEN SCHOOL ENDS, THE SUMMER FOODS SERVICE PROGRAM FILLS THE HUNGER GAP**

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(BOISE) – The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) will kick off the summer feeding program on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, Superintendent Sherri Ybarra announced today. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) serves healthy meals and snacks to children in low-income areas in the summer. The department along with the Idaho Foodbank will kick off SFSP by reading the SFSP proclamation which was signed by Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter proclaiming June 6<sup>th</sup> as Summer Food Service Program Awareness Day. This kick off will take place at Winstead Park in Boise at 11:00 a.m.

“Learning doesn’t have to end when school ends for the year,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “We all know how difficult it is to learn and focus when you are hungry, and this summer program works to provide food to those students so they aren’t hungry, and they have the opportunity to continue learning even when not in school.”

During the school year, meals are served through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, but these programs end when school ends. Since hunger doesn't take a summer vacation, the SFSP helps fill the hunger gap.

“Hunger doesn’t take a vacation once school ends,” Angela Kraft, SFSP Coordinator said. “What we are really talking about are families that simply don’t have the resources to provide three nutritious meals a day for their children. The SFSP program supports those students during the summer months in an effort to provide those three healthy meals a day.”

The program is sponsored by school districts, local government agencies, camps, or public/private nonprofit organizations. Many meal sites also have games and reading activities to build healthy bodies and minds. The SFSP helps our children return to school in the fall ready to learn. One district to participate is the Bonneville School District will be launching the program in their district, and the effort is being led by Heather Plain, Food Service Director.

“SFSP helps us at the local level where we see hunger during the summer months,” Plain said. “It truly does help to fill the hunger gap for those kids who may not have access to healthy meals, or any meals for that matter.”

The Bonneville School District will have their Summer Meals in the Park Kick Off Event at McCowin Park in Ammon at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

For additional information about SFSP, and a list of sites that will be providing meals this summer please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/cnp/sfsp/>. Questions and comments may be directed to Jeff Church at (208) 332-6934 or by email at [jchurch@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:jchurch@sde.idaho.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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