



## **ILLINOIS AFTERSCHOOL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ACT**

### **Support SB 3543**

(Hutchinson –Martinez – Millner – Lightford - Demuzio –  
Steans- Noland - Raoul- Delgado-Harmon-Link)

### **HB 1826**

(Will Davis)

## **ACT NOW TO INVEST IN THE SUCCESS OF ILLINOIS' YOUTH**

Quality afterschool programs help youth succeed by developing critical academic, career, and life skills. Youth with high levels of participation in such programs have lower drop-out rates and higher graduation rates and miss fewer days of school. Afterschool activities help keep youth and communities safe by reducing risky behavior including crime and violence, drug and alcohol abuse and sexual activity.

Despite these proven results, most youth lack access to quality afterschool programs. Approximately half of all K – 12 children are either responsible for themselves or are left in a sibling's care after school hours.

### ***What the Afterschool Youth Development Program Act Does***

The Afterschool Youth Development Program Act creates a framework for coordinating and strengthening afterschool services in Illinois. By creating the Illinois Youth Development Council (housed in the Executive Branch), the act establishes mechanisms to **create accountability** for afterschool programs. The Council will:

- Develop standard, measurable indicators of program quality and successful outcomes
- Collect and rigorously analyze the data on the effectiveness of state and locally supported afterschool programs
- Eliminate waste
- Increase program participation and quality by providing technical assistance, capacity building, and program evaluation and monitoring
- Identify and address gaps in service while minimizing waste
- Make public recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor concerning system-wide goals, alignment of youth development services, and resource alignment.
- Include public and private sector representation, including four members of the General Assembly, chief administrators of key state agencies and community stakeholders.

The act creates a three-year Afterschool Demonstration Period that—**subject to appropriations**—will be administered by the Department of Human Services to evaluate the impact, outcomes and cost of quality afterschool programs, while simultaneously strengthening participating programs.

- Participants would include eligible entities providing afterschool programs with the capacity to provide quality services, collaborate with community stakeholders and show cost-effectiveness. Existing programs with experience in providing afterschool services in Illinois would be given priority for participation in the Demonstration Program, although new entities will also be eligible.
- Outcomes of the Demonstration Period - as determined by an independent evaluator - will be reported to the General Assembly and the Governor and heard before legislative committees. A positive evaluation would put the state on a path to developing a plan for improving access to afterschool programs.

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## Organizations Supporting the ACT Now Campaign

Advance Illinois  
After School Matters  
Alternative Schools Network  
America SCORES Chicago  
Applied Scholastics International  
Better Boys Foundation  
Boys and Girls Club of Chicago  
Brain Hurricane  
BUILD  
Building Better Youth through Sports (BBY Sports)  
Casa Central  
Centro Romero  
Center of Halsted  
Center for New Horizons  
Charles Hayes Center  
Chess Academy LLC  
Chicago Area Project  
Chicago Department of Family and Support Services  
Chicago Housing Authority  
Chicago Metropolis 2020  
Chicago Out-of-School Time Project  
Chicago Police Department  
Chicago Public Schools  
Chicago Urban League  
Chicago Training Centers  
Chicago Youth Centers  
Chinese American Service League  
Child Care Resource and Referral  
Child Link  
Children's Home and Aid  
Community Assistance Programs  
Comer Science and Education Fd.  
Family Network - After School Activity Program  
Decatur Area Education Coalition  
Donors Forum  
Elijah's House  
Erie Neighborhood House and the Erie Elementary  
Charter School  
Farther Foundation  
Fight Crime Invest in Kids Illinois  
Fleetwood - Jourdan Community Center  
FOUS Youth Development Services  
Gary Comer Youth Center  
Golden Apple Foundation  
Hull House Association  
Hyde Park Neighborhood Club  
ICARE Ministries  
Illinois Action for Children  
Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention  
Illinois Afterschool Alliance  
Illinois AfterSchool Network  
Illinois Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs  
Illinois Association of Park Districts  
Illinois Center for Violence Prevention  
Illinois Task Force on African American Males, IDHS  
Latino Policy Forum  
Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth  
Marion Stamps Youth Center  
Metropolitan Family Services  
Mikva Challenge  
Mujeres Latinas En Acción  
Murphysboro Youth & Rec Center  
MWAH! Performing Arts Troupe  
Onward House  
Paul Revere Elementary  
Phalanx Family Services  
RBC Community Service Center  
Robert Emmet School  
Sankofa Safe Child Initiative  
SES OF ILLINOIS  
Sunlight African Community Center  
The Chicago Training Center  
The Federation for Community Schools  
The Intonation Music Workshop  
Union League Boys & Girls Club  
Urban Initiatives  
Voices for Illinois Children  
West Town Academy  
YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Street Intervention  
Program  
Youth Guidance  
Youth Organizations Umbrella (Y.O.U.)  
Youth Outreach Services  
Zam's Hope CRC