What Is ACT Now?

- ACT Now is a statewide coalition that brings together afterschool and youth development stakeholders from across the state to work towards ensuring that young people in Illinois have access to quality, affordable out-of-school time and youth development programs.
- We are a diverse coalition supported by Illinois families, educators, business leaders, community advocates, youth organizations, and policymakers from across the state.
- ACT Now believes that an increased commitment to young people beyond the traditional school day is a crucial part of their growth into productive, healthy adults.

The Coalition Is A Resource For...

- Learning about policy developments involving afterschool
- Networking with other providers and youth advocates to find solutions to daily challenges
- Advocacy training
- Learning about strategies for improving quality in afterschool programs
- Drawing on technical expertise to inform best practices
- Connecting with experts on professional development

ACT Now’s Three Standing Committees

- ACT Now’s three major streams of work are broken up between our three standing committees: the Policy and Advocacy Committee; the Professional Development Committee; and the Quality Assurance, Outcomes and Evaluation Committee.

**The Policy and Advocacy Committee** provides a forum for ACT Now’s public and private partners to develop and pursue a shared policy agenda to increase the quality and availability of afterschool programs. Its work includes assessing local, state, and federal legislative opportunities as well as non-legislative policy opportunities. The Policy Committee is currently working on a Teen REACH codification bill and a positive youth development agenda.

**The Professional Development Committee** facilitates information sharing and resource coordination to identify and meet the needs of the afterschool field for professional development across the entire workforce continuum. The Professional Development Committee is working on planning regional meetings and policy trainings along with developing trainings for our Quality Standards.

**The Quality Assurance, Outcomes, and Evaluation Committee** promotes the adoption of a common system of quality standards statewide and the development of capacity-building, assessment, and evaluation tools, including those linked to standards. It addresses a wide variety of data collection and usage issues, and promotes the use of best practices statewide. The Quality Committee is working on finalizing its Quality Standards and developing a Standards Assessment Tool.

Interested in joining ACT Now or receiving our updates?

DON’T WAIT: Text “SUBSCRIBE” & your email address to 312.877.0725
OR Contact Shallie Pittman at Spittman@Voices4kids.org or 312.516.5574