

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

ACT Now Quality Standards

Trainings

ACT Now is holding free trainings around the state on the Quality Standards. The trainings will provide participants a general overview of the Standards and strategies for implementation. **Credit for the trainings will be available through the Gateways to Opportunity system and participants can also earn CEUs.** For more information on these trainings, click [here](#).

- To register for our Carbondale training on February 7, 2017, click [here](#).
- To register for our Springfield training on February 8, 2017, click [here](#).

Post-Training Feedback

ACT Now welcomes feedback from its Quality Standards training attendees. To share your thoughts on how we can better meet your program's needs in implementing the Standards, click [here](#).

Policy Update

21st CCLC RFP Recommendations

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is in the process of finalizing the RFP for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) FY18 grants. **We need you to tell your policymakers that the RFP needs to be released in order to time the grant start date as much as possible with the start of the fiscal year.** Timing the RFP this way allows for schools and partners to engage in shared planning before the start of school, leading to stronger programs and stronger partnerships. It also means that there will not be a gap in programs or services, and that grantees do not need to lay off staff. Click on this [link](#) to share this message with legislators asking them to tell ISBE to release the RFP. You can also use this [form letter](#) to send a message to ISBE.

Social & Emotional Screening Bill Passes

Public Act [099-0927](#) was signed into law on January 20, 2017. It amends the school code with respect to the developmental and the social and emotional screenings. The revised regulation is intended to create additional and regular opportunities for children to have access to preventive and early intervention mental health resources.

Upcoming Events

Summer Meals Information Sessions

The Illinois State Board of Education in partnership with No Kid Hungry Illinois is seeking nonprofit organizations to serve as sponsors and sites for the federally-funded Summer Meals program that serves kids age 18 and younger. Information sessions are being held statewide. For a list of the 2017 dates and locations, click [here](#). For more information or to register for the Summer Food program, click [here](#). For an example on how the summer meal program supports families and communities, watch the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District's [video](#).

Making Sense of the Dollars & Cents: The State Budget Impasse & Impacts

Join the Federation for Community Schools on **Friday, February 10, 2017**, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for a presentation and conversation about the state budget impasse, and the impacts on children, families, communities, and the social services sector. The workshop will be held at Children's Home + Aid, located at 100 North Western Avenue in Chicago. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Higher Education: Collateral Damage in the Budget Battle

The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability is hosting a series of panel discussions across the state examining Illinois' budget cuts to higher education. The next panel will be held on **Wednesday, February 14, 2017** beginning at 10:30 a.m. on the campus of Western Illinois University in Macomb. For more information, click [here](#).

Afterschool Development Work Group

The Afterschool Development Work Group is a self-organized group of afterschool, education, civic, and nonprofit leaders, and practitioners working together to strengthen the voice of impact afterschool development as a vital resource to improve the lives of Chicago's youth. Their next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 15, 2017**, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the Goodman Theater, located at 170 North Dearborn in Chicago. For more information and to RSVP, contact David Cherry at dcherry@allstars.org

or 312-994-3100.

Engineers Week

Engineers Week celebrates the contributions engineers have made to the world, increases public dialogue about the need for engineers, and brings the field to life for kids, educators, and parents. This year's celebration will be held **February 19-25**. For a list of Chicago area events, click [here](#).

2017 NAA Convention

The National AfterSchool Association's (NAA) 2017 Annual Convention will be held **March 19th to March 22nd** in Dallas, TX. More than 200 learning opportunities will be offered with topics ranging from tools for implementing a top-notch STEM curriculum to effectively identifying and dealing with bullying. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Ten80 Education VIP Coffee & Conversation

Ten80 and Partners in STEM, a 501(c)3 dedicated to promoting best practices in STEM and STEAM education, are facilitating conversations to build collaborations that expand access and participation to better serve students, educators, and employers who count on a strong workforce. They are hosting a VIP Coffee & Conversation event on **Wednesday, March 22, 2017**, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the UIC Forum, located at 725 West Roosevelt Road in Chicago. For more information or to RSVP, click [here](#).

IAN Spring Conference

IAN's 31st Annual Spring AfterSchool Conference will be held on **Saturday, April 29, 2017**, at the Sheraton Lisle Hotel, located at 3000 Warrenville Road in Lisle, IL. The 2017 spring conference will include professional development sessions for front line staff and seasoned professionals, an interactive market, and a public policy meeting sponsored by ACT Now. Click [here](#) for additional details or to register.

Youth Opportunity

2017 ProjectCSGIRLS Competition

The ProjectCSGIRLS Competition challenges middle school girls in grades six through eight to use computer science and technology to build something that can help solve an imminent social problem under one of three themes: global health, a safer world, and

intelligent technology. Registration must be completed by **Wednesday, February 15, 2017**. For more details, click [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

Closing the Gap in STEM Careers

Join Click2Science on **February 8, 2017** at 1:00 p.m. for their upcoming Webinar Wednesday entitled "Closing the Gap in STEM Careers." During the session, participants will learn strategies to help a diverse group of young people make connections to STEM careers. Click [here](#) for more information or to register for this event.

ESSA, Title IV, Part A

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Students, in collaboration with the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments, is hosting a webinar entitled "Allowable Activities to Support Well-Rounded Educational Opportunities, Safe and Healthy Students, Effective Use of Technology" on **Thursday, February 9, 2017** at 1:00 p.m. For more information or to register for this webinar, click [here](#).

Girls of Color ROCK

MENTOR Illinois will be hosting a webinar on **Thursday, February 16, 2017**, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. on how mentoring programs help to empower, encourage, and energize girls of color. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

IAN Educational Leadership Symposium

The Illinois AfterSchool Network (IAN) is sponsoring an Educational Leadership Symposium on **Thursday, March 2, 2017**, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Eastland Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington, IL. The workshop will assist front line staff and program coordinators with integrating social and emotional learning into their afterschool programs. For more information and application details, click [here](#). The deadline for submission is **Friday, February 17, 2017**.

Advancing Youth Development Certification Training

Advancing Youth Development (AYD) is a nationally acclaimed course designed for front line youth workers who interact with adolescents on a daily basis. The 21-hour course is comprised of six sessions and will be held at Gary Comer Youth Center, 7200 South

Ingleside Ave., in Chicago from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., beginning **March 7, 2017**. For additional information contact, Annette Kelly at akelly@4usyouthdevelopment.org or click [here](#).

ESSA and Research Evidence: Opportunities and Challenges for States

The American Youth Policy Forum is holding a webinar on **Tuesday, March 7, 2017**, from 12:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. that will focus on the opportunities and challenges states have faced in establishing systemic use of research evidence under ESSA. In the session, teams from Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Michigan will share the successes they have experienced as well as the roadblocks they have come up against during this process. Click [here](#) for additional details or to register.

Resources

We Love Afterschool Valentine's Campaign

Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire learning, and help working families. This Valentine's Day is a great opportunity for providers, parents, and students to share some of the reasons afterschool is close to their heart. For tips and resources for expressing your love for afterschool on social media, click [here](#).

A Fire, Three Lions, Three Zebras and a Raft

In this month's National AfterSchool Association STEM Gem activity, participants will use a pen and paper to practice logical and critical thinking. To view the lesson plan, click [here](#).

Making Connections to STEM Careers

Click2Science's February learning modules are designed to assist out-of-school time staff with facilitating and supporting youth interest in STEM careers. Program elements include practical applications of science and engineering experiences and strategies for connecting afterschool STEM activities to STEM careers. For more information, click [here](#). Click [here](#) to register for the **February 8th**, "Closing the Gap in STEM Careers" webinar.

21st Century Collaboration Challenge

The 21st Century Collaboration Challenge pairs youth in online collaborative games that are designed to help them work productively in teams to solve increasingly difficult puzzles. Interested education program leaders can enroll students, grades four through 11, in one to

three 30-minute sessions for free. For more information contact Jordan Suhr at j.suhr@lrng.org or 650-395-7051. To register, click [here](#).

Chess Academy

Chess Academy offers a variety of programming that can be used as part of the instructional day, extended day or any afterschool program. Its curriculum integrates literacy and math with chess as a learning tool to improve students' in grades one through 12 problem-solving abilities and critical thinking skills. Staff development CPDU workshops for teachers are also available. For more information on programming and curriculum please contact John Buky at chessteacher@comcast.net or 773-414-2967.

Opportunities for Afterschool Providers

Help Grow Afterschool - Become an Afterschool Advocate

ACT Now's Afterschool Advocates act as champions and spokespeople for afterschool programs. This opportunity is open to program supervisors, staff members, parents, educators, and community leaders who have a love of afterschool and a willingness to talk to others about afterschool. To sign-up or for more information, click [here](#).

Dental Resources for Afterschool Programs

SmileConnect.org is an online platform available to afterschool programs in Illinois that allows programs to receive dental resources and preventive services onsite free-of-charge for their students. SmileConnect works to connect children in need of dental resources with those available to help by utilizing local volunteer dental providers and distributing oral health kits donated by its partners. Programs can get connected with these resources at any time by visiting www.SmileConnect.org and creating a request. Contact Allison Bohlen, SmileConnect Program Lead, with any questions at Allison.Bohlen@Altarum.org or (734) 302-4618.

2017 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is inviting applications for the 2017 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. Each of the 12 award-winning programs will receive \$10,000 and an invitation to accept their award at a ceremony in Washington, DC. Afterschool and out-of-school arts and humanities programs are encouraged to apply. Completed applications must be submitted electronically by **Wednesday, February 8,**

2017, 7:00 p.m. CST. To view eligibility criteria or to apply, click [here](#).

Chicagoland Instructors Apprenticeship for Advanced Manufacturing Program

The Instructors Apprenticeship for Advanced Manufacturing (IAAM) professional development program was developed to meet the demand for manufacturing technology instructors who are capable of effectively teaching in middle and high schools, community colleges, incumbent training programs, and other adult training programs in the Chicagoland area. IAAM is a free program for qualified participants. For more information, click [here](#). Those interested should complete the [interest form](#) by **Friday, February 10, 2017**.

Governor's Volunteer Service Awards

The Governor's Volunteer Service Awards highlight the importance of volunteerism and community service in the State of Illinois. Awards will be presented to one youth, one adult, and one retiree/senior in each of the five service regions across the state. Nominations are due by 5:00 p.m. CST on **Friday, February 17, 2017**. For additional information, click [here](#).

CCE Call for Proposals

College Changes Everything (CCE) is making a call for interest session proposals for its seventh annual conference. The event will be held on **Thursday, July 20, 2017** at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Proposals covering a wide range of themes related to college access and completion and career readiness are encouraged. For more information or to submit a proposal, click [here](#). Priority consideration will be given to forms completed by **Friday, March 17, 2017**.

Funding Opportunity

New York Life Foundation Aim High RFP

The New York Life Foundation has created a new \$1.95M fund to assist afterschool and summer learning programs with helping their middle school students make a successful transition from 8th to 9th grade. Aim High will provide \$750,000 to support 18 awards nationwide with technical assistance, enhancing direct service activities, and/or program expansion. Applications are due by **Friday, February 17, 2017**. Click [here](#) to learn more about the grant program, funding guidelines, and how to apply.



Read more about the [ACT Now Coalition](#). Please send any information you would like included in the next newsletter to StantonS@metrofamily.org

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The ACT Now Coalition brings together afterschool and youth development stakeholders from across Illinois to work towards ensuring that all young people in Illinois have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs.

Please send this information to others who might be interested by forwarding this e-mail.

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