

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy Update

ESSA State Plan for Illinois Feedback

Congress passed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in December 2015, reauthorizing the nation's largest education law with many much needed updates and revisions. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) submitted the ESSA State Plan for Illinois to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) on April 1, 2017. ED's review of Illinois' consolidated State plan was posted on August 2, 2017. The reviewers found that it was not clear whether the State-level activities that ISBE is "considering" under Title IV, Part A, Subpart 1, would be the activities that the State will implement. They also found the reference to using its "5 percent administrative set-aside from the Title IV allocation," to be inconsistent with the statute, which only allows for up to 1 percent. The agency must also describe the procedures by which it will ensure that 21st Century Community Learning Centers will help participating students meet state and local academic standards. ED has given ISBE within 15 days from July 28th to resubmit. The review can be accessed [here](#).

Illinois Budget/Teen REACH Update

On July 6th, the Illinois House voted 71 to 42 to override Governor Bruce Rauner's vetoes of a budget, ending a 736 day impasse.

[Public Act 100-0021](#) had a significant increase in Teen REACH funding. Teen REACH programs will receive \$19,489,500 in FY18 funding, an over \$6 million increase from FY15. The budget that passed also provided an additional \$10,521,800 in Teen REACH funding for FY17; however, it seems unlikely programs will be able to access these funds. This budget also represents the first time the state has labeled a budget line item Teen REACH. This is due to the Teen REACH codification bill that passed last year. The Governor's office is looking carefully at contracts for all programs that were not in the Governor's budget, including Teen REACH. The budget that passed gave the Governor the authority to spend up to \$19.6 million on Teen REACH, but it does not require the administration to issue contracts and spend this money. We need you to ask your legislators to tell the administration to issue Teen REACH contracts as soon as possible by clicking [here](#). Please also consider sharing this message with your networks.

FY18 21st CCLC Appropriations

On July 19th, the U.S. House Appropriations Committee approved the FY18 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) bill that cuts 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) funding by \$192 million. This is the lowest level of federal afterschool funding since 2007. If the House bill were to become law, roughly 8,331 children in Illinois would lose access to quality afterschool and summer learning programs next year. To read more about the House education spending bill, click [here](#).

The U.S. Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee has yet to act on their FY18 spending bill and are expected to do so in September.

As conversations about FY18 appropriations continue, you can advocate for 21st Century using the following resources:

- [Send an email to Congress](#)
- [Set up a site visit](#)
- [Write a letter to the editor](#)
- [Use social media](#)

Juvenile Justice Reform Act

On August 1, 2017, the U.S. Senate passed a reauthorization of the federal Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act of 2017, [S.860](#), which provides funding for delinquency prevention programming. The bill now heads to a conference committee to be reconciled with its House version, [H.R.1809](#).

Bills Passed in the Illinois Legislature

The following bills passed in both chambers of the General Assembly and have been sent to Governor Rauner to be signed:

- June 23rd: Social Services Contract Notice, [HB3110](#)
- June 23rd: The Prompt Payment Equity Act, [HB3143](#)
- June 29th: The Thriving Youth Fund, [SB2046](#)

To share your opinion on these bills with the Governor, click [here](#) or call him in his Chicago (312-814-2121) or Springfield (217-782-0244) office.

Child Protection Improvements Act

The federal Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017, [H.R.695](#), which would provide

no/low cost national background checks for youth serving organizations was received in the Senate and read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary on May 23rd.

Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, [H.R.2353](#), updates the Perkins career and technical education (CTE) legislation. The bill recognizes and supports the work afterschool and summer providers are doing to help students enter the workforce prepared and ready for well-paid, in-demand careers. It has been received in the Senate, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Upcoming Events

Strengthening Chicago's Youth's Quarterly Meeting

Strengthening Chicago's Youth's next quarterly meeting will focus on the complex relationship between drugs and violence. The event will take place on **Wednesday, August 30, 2017**, from 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. It will be held at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, located at 225 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago. For additional details or to register, click [here](#).

Lights on Afterschool

Lights on Afterschool (LOA) is a national celebration of the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire learning, and help working families. On **Thursday, October 26, 2017** more than one million Americans will attend more than 8,000 Lights On Afterschool events in all 50 states and in the District of Columbia. If you are considering hosting an activity, click [here](#) to visit the Afterschool Alliance LOA webpage and register your event. There you will find tips for planning an event and engaging the community as well as marketing resources.

Youth Opportunity

100 Day Bicentennial Video Contest

Illinois high school and college students are invited to submit a 45 to 60 second self-made video highlighting a fact, event, place, person, or something to learn about the history of Illinois. Winners will receive two tickets to a performance of Hamilton. The deadline for video submissions is **Thursday, August 31, 2017**. For more details, click [here](#).

Congressional App Challenge

The Congressional App Challenge (CAC) is a public effort to encourage kids to learn how to code. District-wide competitions take place from July through early November. For more information, click [here](#).

Trainings & Webinars

SciGirls STEM Training

SciGirls, an Emmy-award winning PBS KIDS television series and website, is offering a professional development training on engaging middle and high school girls in STEM. The workshop will be held on **Saturday, August 12, 2017** from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at Concordia University Chicago, located at 7400 Augusta Street in River Forest, IL. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Community Schools: An Evidence-Based Strategy for Equitable School Improvement

The Federation for Community Schools and Partners for Each and Every Child will be hosting a symposium on **Tuesday, August 15, 2017**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The session will highlight the efficacy of implementing the community schools model as an equitable school improvement strategy under the Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA). For additional details or to register, click [here](#).

How to Write an Awesome Annual Report

CharityHowTo will be hosting a webinar on **Wednesday, August 16, 2017** at 12:00 p.m. that will assist nonprofits in writing annual reports that will inspire and engage their donors. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Building Community between Police and Youth

The Afterschool Alliance will be hosting a webinar on **Wednesday, August 16, 2017** at 1:00 p.m. that will provide afterschool programs insight on how they can help build community between police and youth. Participants will hear from the Police Athletic League as well as an officer and afterschool program director in Burlington, IA who are working together to increase dialogue in their community. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Free Google Advertising

CharityHowTo will be hosting a free webinar on **Thursday, August 17, 2017** that will inform nonprofits on how they can apply for \$10,000 per month in free online advertising on Google.com. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Resource

The Power of Partnerships with the Business Community

Forging partnerships with the business community is one means by which afterschool programs can increase their capacity. Sharing your programs' mission with businesses not only gives them a better understanding of what you do, it also provides them an opportunity to contribute to your cause. Additional tips on how afterschool providers can engage the business community can be found [here](#).

Opportunities for Providers

Illinois Back to School

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) invites schools across the state to share how they are welcoming back their students for the 2017-2018 academic year. To participate, tag ISBE in your back to school Facebook posts, tweet at ISBE with #ILBacktoSchool, or email photos and captions to backtoschool@isbe.net. The #ILBacktoSchool photo campaign is also a good way for afterschool providers to show Superintendent Smith that afterschool programs are an important part of successful education and are starting up as well. For more information, click [here](#).

SciGirls CONNECT Train the Trainer Program

SciGirls CONNECT is looking for applicants to bring its educational resources and gender equity strategies to communities nationwide. Certified SciGirls trainers will be responsible for leading full-day SciGirls educator trainings for formal and/or informal educators. The deadline to apply is **Friday, September 1, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

School Breakfast Grants

School Breakfast Grants ranging from \$2,100 to \$5,000 have been made available to help

schools implement a Breakfast After the Bell delivery model. For more information about the requirements and submission deadlines, click [here](#).

Environmental Service-Learning Grant

Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! is offering grants up to \$1,000 to assist schools and youth organizations with environmental service-learning projects that link the classroom to the real world. The deadline to apply is **Saturday, September 30, 2017**. For more information about the grant program, funding guidelines, and how to apply, click [here](#).



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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