

# ACT NOW!

## Afterschool for Children and Teens

### 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 Southwest Chicago training on **September 29, 2017**, click [here](#).
- To register for our Peoria training on **October 3, 2017**, click [here](#).
- To register for our Champaign training on **October 11, 2017**, click [here](#).

### Policy

#### Evaluation of Existing Regulations

On February 24, 2017, President Trump signed Executive Order 13777, “Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda,” which established a Federal policy “to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burdens” on the American people. As a part of this regulation, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) is seeking public input to inform its Regulatory Reform Task Force’s evaluation of existing regulations and guidance that have a policy impact. ED is particularly interested in regulatory provisions that may be found unduly costly or unnecessarily burdensome. The deadline for submitting comments is **Wednesday, September 20, 2017**. For guidance on how to submit comments, click [here](#).

#### ISBE Board Meeting

The Illinois State Board of Education met on August 16, 2017.

- After a board member asked about the proposed cuts to 21st Century, Superintendent Smith spoke out strongly in support of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program citing the importance of the program for academic enrichment, communities, and the keeping youth safe.
- The Board voted to approve the renewal of FY13 21st Century grantees.
- The Board also provided an update on the status of the State’s ESSA plan. For a summary of the Department of Education’s feedback on Illinois’ ESSA plan, see the

update on our website [here](#). Some board members requested an opportunity to provide feedback after ISBE makes changes.

***ACT Now policy updates affecting the afterschool/youth development field, including information about Teen REACH and 21st Century, can be found [here](#).***

## Upcoming Events

### **Student Leaders & Athletic Youth Conference**

Sexual violence prevention organizations, PreventConnect and Raliance, will be hosting a web conference on **Tuesday, August 22, 2017** that will explore the Student Leaders & Athletic Youth (SLAY) curriculum. The program aims to empower female-identified youth to take an active role in promoting healthy relationships and ending sexual violence. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

### **Using Essential Elements to Select, Adapt, and Evaluate Violence Prevention Approaches**

PreventConnect will be hosting a web conference on **Monday, August 28, 2017** at 1:00 p.m. to explore the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance document, "Using Essential Elements to Select, Adapt, and Evaluate Violence Prevention Approaches." The session will highlight practical tools that practitioners can use to estimate the essential elements of a prevention approach and track and evaluate adaptations in their own settings. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

### **Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition Quarterly Meeting**

The Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition will be hosting its next quarterly meeting on **Thursday, September 7, 2017**, from 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. It will be held at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, located at 225 East Chicago Ave, Chicago. For additional details or to register, click [here](#).

## Youth Opportunity

### **Celebrating High School Innovators Competition**

The Celebrating High School Innovators competition (CHSI) identifies, fosters, and celebrates Illinois high school students whose contributions are exceptional and inspirational. Rising 9th through 12th grade students are eligible to apply in five areas: 1) arts, media & literature, 2) business entrepreneurship, 3) social entrepreneurship, 4) health & nutrition, and 5) STEM. CHSI will award five \$1,000 cash prizes to the top five areas, along with scholarships to Illinois State University and Millikin University. Applications are due by **Friday, September 15, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

*For archived youth opportunities, click [here](#).*

## Training

### Rev Up Training Institute

The Chicago Freedom School will be hosting a training on the fundamentals of organizing on **Wednesday, September 13, 2017**. The session will be held from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Chicago Freedom School, located at 719 South State St, Floor 4 in Chicago. For additional details or to register, click [here](#).

*To view ACT Now's calendar of events, click [here](#).*

## Resources

### Tolerance and Inclusion Resources

ACT Now is a diverse coalition that works towards ensuring that all young people in Illinois have access to quality, affordable afterschool and youth development programs. We understand that communities around the state are deeply affected by the events that took place in Charlottesville last week. Please be aware of the following resources that can support afterschool providers in ensuring that their programs are a place where participants, families, staff, and communities feel safe.

- [Illinois State Board of Education](#): List of anti-bias resources that may be of benefit to school districts and the communities they serve. Includes social justice curriculums for educators and interactive activities for students.
- [National AfterSchool Association](#): Resources to support afterschool providers in their work with young people, communities, and each other that are proactive and in response to the aftermath of tragedy.
- [Southern Poverty Law Center](#): Ten Ways to Fight Hate: A Community Response Guide
- [ExpandedEDSchools](#): Crucial, Courageous Conversations: How to Talk to Kids About Racial Violence
- [NPRED](#): Resources for Educators to Use in the Wake of Charlottesville
- [National Education Association](#): Diversity Toolkit: Cultural Competence for Educators
- [Los Angeles Times](#): How to Talk to Your Kids About the Violence in Charlottesville

### 21st CCLC and ESSA

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) replaced No Child Left Behind as the guiding, major federal education law of the land. To provide clarity to the reauthorization in regards

to the 21st Community Learning Centers, the U.S. Department of Education has published the following resources:

- [21st CCLC and ESSA Implementation FAQs](#)
- [Renewability of 21st CCLC Awards](#)

### **Town Hall Project**

Federal legislators are home in district over the next few weeks, which provides a great opportunity for advocacy. The Town Hall Project empowers constituents across the country to have face-to-face conversations with their elected representatives by sharing public events with members of Congress. To locate opportunities where you can engage your federal elected officials during the August recess, click [here](#).

### **Afterschool and Workforce: Bridging Systems to Serve Older Youth**

On July 18th, the American Youth Policy Forum convened a group of thought leaders to discuss the opportunities for coordination and collaboration between afterschool and workforce systems to serve older youth. A summary of the conversation can be found [here](#).

### **The Value and Promise of CTE**

A national survey of parents and students on the value and promise of career technical education (CTE) indicates that these programs are vital for exploring career passion and providing real-world skills. For additional survey findings, click [here](#).

### **Evidence-Based Practices to Support College and Career Readiness in High School**

The College & Career Readiness & Success Center at American Institutes for Research has compiled a list of highly predictive indicators to support students who are at risk of not graduating from high school on time. The early warning indicators can be found [here](#).

*For a list of afterschool and youth development related resources collected by ACT Now, click [here](#).*

## **Opportunities for Providers**

*For archived provider opportunities, click [here](#).*

## **Funding Opportunities**

***For a list of previously listed afterschool and youth development related grants, 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](mailto: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.

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