

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

State ESSA Plan Approved

On August 30, 2017 the U.S. Department of Education approved the Illinois Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan. The plan can be viewed [here](#). For more information on ESSA, click [here](#).

Illinois Public Acts

The following bills have been signed by Governor Rauner and are now law:

- August 18: Social Services Contract Notice, HB3110, [Public Act 100-0153](#)
- August 18: Chronic Absenteeism Bill, HB3139, [Public Act 100-0156](#)
- August 24: Thriving Youth Fund, SB2046, [Public Act 100-0329](#)

Governor Vetoes Prompt Payment Act Reform Bill

On August 18, 2017 Governor Rauner vetoed [HB3143](#). The legislation amends the State Prompt Payment Act to include vendors providing prevention, intervention, or treatment services and supports for youth on behalf of the state. The Prompt Payment Act requires

the state to provide payment in a timely manner for services rendered or compensate the contractor for prolonged delays. Both the House and Senate passed the bill with bipartisan support. The HB3143 press release can be accessed [here](#). To identify your legislators as well as retrieve contact information to ask them to override the veto, click [here](#).

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. Some board members requested an opportunity to provide feedback after ISBE makes changes. (The Illinois ESSA plan was approved on August 30th.)

Illinois Budget/Teen REACH Update

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](#)

Upcoming Event

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 Opportunities

After School Matter Fall Program Session

After School Matters is accepting applications for their fall 2017 program session. Current Chicago public high school students who are Chicago residents, including rising freshmen and just-graduated seniors, are eligible. Some spots are available to non-CPS high school students. For more information, click [here](#).

Celebrating High School Innovators Competition

The Celebrating High School Innovators competition (CHSI) 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](#).

Trainings and Webinars

Teen Depression Classroom Program Training

The Lighthouse Curriculum: Depression and Suicide Awareness for High School Students is a video-based high school curriculum. The curriculum is made up of a series of three 45-minute lessons that seek to open up conversations about mental health, provide students with opportunities to better understand what it's like to have depression, and inform students of where they can get help if worried about themselves or a friend. For more information, click [here](#). The training will be offered on the following dates:

- [September 7th: Virtual Webinar](#)
- [September 15th: New Trier Northfield](#)
- [September 26th: Warren-Newport Public Library](#)

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](#).

ESSA: Building Sustainable Bridges Between School Day and Afterschool Programs

The ACT Now Coalition will be hosting a webinar on **Wednesday, September 20, 2017** at 10:00 a.m. to assist afterschool providers in advocating for afterschool programs incorporation into school districts' Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) implementation plan. For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

Illinois AfterSchool Network

The Illinois AfterSchool Network's upcoming trainings are listed below. For more information or to register, contact Jackie Richie at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-753-4620.

- **September 21, 2017** (Chicago, IL): Restorative Justice and the Circle Process in After School

- **September 28, 2017** (Bloomington, IL): Healthy Out-of-School Time

Resources

Afterschool Computer Science Resource Guide

The Afterschool Alliance's computer science education resource guide, "Connecting to Computer Science: A Resource for Afterschool Practitioners," pulls together existing resources, curricula, and research to get programs and students started. To access, click [here](#).

Career Readiness Workshop Playbook

Washington STEM and Washington MESA have developed a playbook that is a step-by-step guide for how to hold a successful Career Readiness workshop targeting middle school, high school, and post-secondary students. The playbook can be accessed [here](#).

Kite Light Flight

In this month's National AfterSchool Association STEM Gem activity, participants will use drinking straws, paper, and string to demonstrate the principles of thrust, drag, lift, and weight. To view the lesson plan, click [here](#).

STEM and Wellness: A Powerful Equation for Equity

A brief recently released by the National Afterschool Association, Alliance for a Healthier Generation, Afterschool Alliance, and National Girls Collaborative Project makes the case for implementing STEM and wellness in a complementary manner. For resources on how to make this a reality in the afterschool setting, click [here](#).

Team Nutrition Popular Events Idea Booklet

The United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service's "Popular Events Idea Booklet" provides fun ways for promoting healthy eating and physical activity in elementary/middle school. Ideas for themed events and other resources can be found [here](#).

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. 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

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](#).

Teamwork and STEM

STEM fields often require the collaboration of large and diverse teams. The afterschool environment provides an informal, low stress atmosphere where young people can learn how to work together. For tips on how to be successful when implementing team STEM activities, click [here](#). For a list of STEM icebreakers and team building challenges, click [here](#).

Bringing Older Adult Volunteers into Youth-Serving Organizations

The Generation to Generation campaign is a national effort launched by Encore.org to inspire adults over 50 to make a positive difference in the lives of children and youth. Afterschool programs are prime settings for creating closer-knit and happier communities by bringing senior volunteers into the lives of school-age children. For information on how your program can get involved, click [here](#).

Opportunities for Providers

Youth Resource Fair

All Stars Project Chicago is inviting youth serving organizations to participate in their Youth Resource Fair. The event will be held on **Saturday, September 16, 2017** at Christ the King College Prep High School, located at 5800 West Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. For more information, click [here](#).

Employment

ACT Now is seeking a policy and communications intern for an unpaid position for the fall 2017 semester. Submissions are due by **Friday, September 8, 2017**. Click [here](#) to view the description and instructions on how to apply.

Funding Opportunities

The Finish Line Youth Foundation

The Finish Line Youth Foundation funds community-based youth athletic programs and camps that emphasize active lifestyles, especially programs that serve disadvantaged and special needs kids. The foundation awards grants on a quarterly basis for programming, facility improvements, and unforeseen fiscal circumstances. The next grant deadline is **Saturday, September 30, 2017**. For funding guidelines or to determine eligibility, click [here](#).

Seeds for Education Grant Program

The Seeds for Education Grant Program provides grants under \$500 for youth-centered efforts to establish and maintain native plant landscape learning environments. Applications are due by **Sunday, October 15, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

Advancing Informal STEM Learning

The National Science Foundation's Advancing Informal STEM Learning program is currently soliciting grant proposals for informal STEM education. The deadline to apply is **Monday, November 6, 2017**. For funding and eligibility guidelines, click [here](#).

Community Impact Grants

The Home Depot Foundation offers grants, up to \$5,000, to IRS-registered 501(c) designated organizations and tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. to support the renovation, refurbishment, retrofitting, accessibility modifications, and/or weatherization of existing homes, centers, schools, and other similar facilities. The next grant deadline is **Sunday, December 31, 2017**. For funding guidelines or to determine eligibility, 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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