

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy

ISBE Board Meeting

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) met on January 17, 2018. The meeting packet can be found [here](#). Public comment centered on the school funding formula and Governor Rauner's amendatory veto.

Presentations were given to the board on the ESSA indicators. The P-2 and 3-8 indicators will focus on chronic absenteeism, English Language Learners, and gifted/enrichment programming. The College and Career Readiness workgroup also provided comments on their indicator. Details of their reports are in the board packet. ISBE will accept public comment on these indicators and will discuss them again at its [March meeting](#).

ISBE also discussed its budget recommendations, which include \$20 million of state funding for afterschool, \$15 million for the Health Communities Incentive Fund to support school and community partnerships, and \$2,443,800 for After School Matters.

School Age Licensure Exemption Rules

The School Age Licensure Exemption bill, SB 2321, was signed into law in July 2016. Public Act [099-699](#) releases afterschool and summer programs serving school age youth in Illinois from childcare licensing standards. As part of the legislation, the Department of Human Services (DHS) was to develop specific rules involving staff qualification and training standards by which programs can obtain the exemption. A SB2321 workgroup convened in 2016 through 2017 to provide recommendations. The school-age license exempt staff qualifications/trainings recently filed by DHS can be viewed [here](#) (pages 14895-14897).

Keep Afterschool Meals Healthy

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) interim [School Meal Flexibility Rule](#) weakens the current healthy school meal standards by allowing fewer whole grains, more sodium, and higher calorie flavored milk to be served. Afterschool programs that offer snacks and/or a meal have the potential to be impacted. To send the USDA an automated message

urging them to reconsider these changes, click [here](#).

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

Trainings and Webinars

ACT Now Afterschool Map & Database

ACT Now's Afterschool Map is the first statewide database for out-of-school time (OST) programs in Illinois. To find out more about the map and ask questions, join us on **Tuesday, January 23, 2018** at 10:00 a.m. for our upcoming webinar. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Building Workforce Skills in Afterschool

The Afterschool Alliance will be hosting a webinar on **Wednesday, January 31, 2018** at 1:00 p.m. where several providers will share how their programs are helping students build workforce skills. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Understanding the Impact of Human Trafficking on Youth

The Illinois Collaboration on Youth will be hosting a webinar on **Wednesday, January 31, 2018** that will provide social service professionals an introduction to the sex and labor trafficking crisis as well as tools for supporting survivors. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

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

Resource

Ignite Tour Screening

Shine Global is offering free screenings of its Ignite film series that is aimed at raising awareness, promoting action, and inspiring change on behalf of children who are at-risk. For more information on how afterschool programs and community organizations can book a free screening, click [here](#).

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

Opportunity for Providers

CSforAll RPP Workshop

The National Science Foundation is hosting Computer Science for All (CSforAll) research-practice partnership (RPP) development workshops in Los Angeles and Chicago in early 2018. Established and new RPPs are invited to apply. For more information, click [here](#).

For archived opportunities for providers, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunity

EJK Mini-Grant

The Ezra Jack Keats (EJK) Foundation is offering funding of up to \$500 to public schools, public libraries, and public preschools to design and implement creative, innovative programs that support or extend the Common Core Standards in education. The application deadline is **Saturday, March 31, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

For a list of previously listed afterschool and youth development related grants, click [here](#).

Youth Opportunities

For archived youth opportunities, 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.

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