

# ACT NOW!

## Afterschool for Children and Teens

### Policy

#### State of the Union 2018

On Tuesday, January 30th, President Donald Trump delivered his State of the Union Address. President Trump did not mention afterschool or speak much about education. However, the President did mention his \$1.5 trillion infrastructure package. It is unclear if school construction will be part of this package. There are concerns that any increase in non-defense discretionary spending will go to this infrastructure package rather than vital education programs. President Trump also spoke about the importance of career and technical education, which is strengthened by many afterschool partnerships. Moreover, the President touched on the opioid crisis. Afterschool programs are critical for drug use prevention, but prevention was not discussed in the address. The President's budget is expected to be released in mid-February.

#### ESSA School Quality/Student Success Indicators

As stated in the ESSA State Plan for Illinois, the Illinois State Board of Education requests feedback on the recommendations provided for the [P-2](#), [Elementary-Middle Grade](#), and the [College and Career Readiness](#) Indicators. Comments must be submitted to [ESSA@isbe.net](mailto:ESSA@isbe.net) by **Friday, February 16, 2018**. ACT Now's comments can be accessed [here](#). For more information, click [here](#).

#### The Higher Education Act

The Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) is the nation's primary law with respect to postsecondary education. On December 13, 2017, the House of Representatives' Committee on Education and the Workforce, approved [H.R. 4508](#), the Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform (PROSPER) Act. The bill repeals Title II, which provides supports and accountability structures for teacher preparation and building educator capacity in high-need fields, and streamlines the student financial aid system. STEM advocates caution that repealing Title II will negatively affect the STEM teacher career pipeline. In response, they are encouraging Congress to support incentives for both STEM career professionals and recent graduates to pursue teaching. Democratic House leaders are in the process of drafting their own reauthorization

language.

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

## Youth Opportunities

### Summer High School Apprenticeship Programs

The Army Educational Outreach Program is offering three summer STEM opportunities to high school students. Apprenticeships are held at over 100 universities and 12 Department of Defense laboratories across the United States. The deadline to apply is **Wednesday, February 28, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

### High School Bound

High School Bound is an online hub that allows students to search for and learn more about Chicago public high schools and the programs they offer. To access the website, click [here](#).

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

## Trainings and Webinars

### The Growing Out-of-School Time Field: Part II

The Afterschool Alliance will be hosting its second webinar that explores the ways in which the out-of-school time field has grown and matured as a partner in helping children and youth reach their full potential. The session will be held on **Wednesday, February 7, 2018** at 1:00 p.m. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

### Illinois AfterSchool Network

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

- **February 27, 2018** (Chicago, IL): Through the Looking Glass: Applying a Trauma Lens to Our Work with Children and Adolescents

- **March 1, 2018** (Mattoon, IL): Building, Guiding and Managing Relationships with Youth: Controlling the Environment Not the Child/Youth – The Road to Progressive Behavioral Guidance
- **March 8, 2018** (Glendale Heights, IL): Summer Program Planning: Are YOU Ready?

### **ACT Now Quality Standards**

ACT Now is holding a free training on the Afterschool Quality Standards on **Friday, April 7, 2018** at the Bank of Springfield Center in Springfield, IL. This is a pre-conference session before the Illinois AfterSchool Network Conference. You do not need to register for the conference to participate in the training. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

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

## **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](#).

### **Afterschool STEM Hub Newsletter**

The Afterschool Lab Report is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Afterschool STEM Hub. It includes STEM policy updates, resources, advocacy opportunities, and research publications that help make the case about why afterschool STEM learning is important. For more information or to sign up, click [here](#).

### **2018 Science and Engineering Indicators**

The National Science Board's 2018 Indicators is a congressionally mandated report that provides high-quality quantitative information on the state of science and engineering in the United States. To access the Indicators, click [here](#).

### **"Do You See Me?": Youth Voice to Address Barriers**

The American Youth Policy Forum's blog post highlights three programs that emphasize the

importance of promoting and protecting the role of youth voice and advocacy in youth policymaking and programmatic processes. To read the post, click [here](#).

### **Leveraging the Power of Partnerships**

A recent article in the *Connected Science Learning* journal explores the Science Action Club's successful partnership, professional development, and train-the-trainer model in engaging middle school youth in afterschool citizen science projects. To read the article, click [here](#).

### **Afterschool and Workforce: Opportunities for System-Level Alignment**

A White Paper from the American Youth Policy Forum discusses the ways in which afterschool programs and workforce sectors can work together on a systems level to help prepare students for success in their future careers. To access the publication, click [here](#).

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

## **Opportunity for Providers**

### **Connected Science Learning**

*Connected Science Learning* is an online, peer-reviewed, journal that publishes original research showing outcomes and impacts of in-school and out-of-school STEM learning partnerships. They are looking for articles and briefs that demonstrate how STEM learning in afterschool settings impact youth via partnerships with schools and community. Contributions are due by **Sunday, April 15, 2018**. For submission guidelines, click [here](#).

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

## **Employment**

### **ACT Now Summer Intern**

ACT Now is seeking a policy and communications intern for summer 2018. Applicants must be able to commit to an eight to ten week internship working 37.5 hours per week. The intern will receive a stipend commensurate with experience. Submissions are due by **Friday, March 12, 2018**. Click [here](#) to view the job description and instructions on how to apply.

## **ISAC Corps**

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is recruiting recent college graduates to join their 2018-19 Corps. Corp members work with middle and high school students and their parents as they navigate the college going process. For more information, click [here](#).

## **Funding Opportunity**

### **HCIF Notice of Funding Opportunity**

The Healthy Communities Incentive Fund (HCIF) is a grant available to school districts and community organizations for after-school programming, as well as other programming outside of the normal school day. Non-school district applicants must be serving 90 percent or more low-income students with a minimum of 100 students. The deadline to apply is **Monday, February 26, 2018**. For eligibility and application information, click [here](#).

***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.

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

To stop all emails from the ACT Now Coalition: [Click here to unsubscribe](#).