



ACT Now Events Calendar

February

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
11	12	13	14	15
		IL-QPSA Webinar #3: Analyzing Your Data 10 AM to 11 AM		
18	19	20	21	22
			Community Schools Providers Meeting (Peoria, IL) 10 AM to 12 PM	
25	26	27	28	01
		ACT Now Membership Meeting (Granite City, IL) 10 AM to 12 PM	Community Schools Providers Meeting (Skokie, IL) 10 AM to 12 PM	

To register for events, [click on the calendar](#), or visit: actnowillinois.org

For questions, email Faith Knocke
ACT Now - Youth Development Associate
KnockeF@actnowillinois.org

Policy Updates

Rebuild America's Schools Act

On January 30th, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) introduced [H.R.865](#), the "Rebuild America's Schools Act." The bill would create a \$70 billion grant program and \$30 billion tax credit bond program to improve schools in high-poverty areas; develop a comprehensive national database on the condition of public school facilities; and expand access to high-speed broadband internet. To learn more, [click here](#).

For a list of previously listed policy updates, click [here](#).

Trainings and Events

ACT Now Membership Meetings

ACT Now is holding meetings for ACT Now members to network with one another and learn more about the work of ACT Now. We are holding our second membership meeting for the year on **February 27th in Granite City, IL from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** At this meeting, ACT Now will provide information about our advocacy efforts, resources we offer to support afterschool programs, and a family engagement professional development. Providers will spend much of the time will interacting with one another and creating new partnerships. To register, [click here](#).

Community School Providers Meetings

ACT Now is continuing to hold meetings for community school providers to network with one another and learn more about the work of ACT Now in the Community Schools space. Participants will hear about policy updates, network with other providers, and receive professional development in evaluation and messaging/marketing for community schools. (See below for a schedule of upcoming meetings.)

Upcoming Community School Providers Meetings:

- **Peoria, IL:** February 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))
 - *Note: The topic for the Peoria professional development opportunity is "family engagement."*
- **Skokie, IL:** February 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))
- **Chicago, IL:** March 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))

Quality Standards Trainings

ACT Now is providing free in-person trainings on the Illinois Statewide Quality Standards in order to help afterschool providers and staff continuously improve the quality of their programs.

Upcoming Quality Standards Trainings:

- **Chicago, IL:** March 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))
- **Springfield, IL:** April 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))

UPDATE -- Data-Driven Decision Making

Join Vinay Mullick and Charles Brown of [UpMetrics](#) to explore how data can help organizations and practitioners develop programs, increase impact, and increase funder investment. A free lunch is included! UpMetrics has rescheduled this lunch-and-learn in **Downtown Chicago on February 28th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** To register, [click here](#).

Safety, Health, & Nutrition

UPDATE -- Webinar: Trauma Informed Settings in Afterschool

During this webinar, the Illinois Afterschool Network (IAN) will discuss how to implement the five core principles of trauma-informed care in an afterschool setting. (The webinar is \$15 for IAN members and \$30 for non-members.) This webinar has been rescheduled for **February 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** To register, [click here](#).

Trauma Informed Trainings

These free, one-day, in-person trainings at La Rabida Children's Hospital will explore the impact of violence on children and families and how this results in complex trauma reactions; how to develop a trauma informed approach; and how to support staff by recognizing how this work impacts stress levels and the work environment. These trainings will be held in **Chicago on March 11th and March 25th at 9:30 a.m.** To register, [click here](#).

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Guiding Youth Behavior in OST Programs

The Illinois AfterSchool Network is providing a workshop on developing positive and preventive strategies to effectively guide and facilitate children and youth's behavior in out-of-school time (OST) programs. The workshop encompasses an activity on self-inventory, the six elements of operating a high-quality OST program, and bullying prevention strategies. This workshop will be held in **Rock Island on March 12th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** (This workshop is \$15 for IAN members and \$30 for non-members.) Please email [Jackie Richie](#) at or call **217-953-4620** to register.

Webinar: Getting to Work on Summer Learning

This webinar will explain the elements of successful summer programs and dive into the accompanying online [Summer Learning Toolkit](#), which features more than 50 practical tools and planning resources to help school districts and their partners design and deliver high-quality summer programs. This webinar will be held on **February 27th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** To register, [click here](#)

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

Youth Opportunities

Illinois Art Contest

To celebrate the 37th Illinois Arts Education Week (March 11th to March 17th), the Illinois State Board of Education is holding a statewide, youth art contest. The art contest will consist of three categories, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Each category will have a winner and five runners-up. The winners will have their art enlarged and hung at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum for an entire year. To learn more, [click here](#).

For an archive of our previously listed Youth Opportunities, click [here](#)

Opportunities for Providers

IAN Spring Conference

The Illinois Afterschool Network (IAN) is pleased to announce its 33rd Annual Afterschool Spring Conference Celebration! The annual conference will be held on **April 27th at the Sheraton Hotel in Lisle, IL**. Additionally, there will be a **pre-conference session on April 26th** to discuss STEM topics. For more information, [click here](#).

For an archive of our previously listed Opportunities for Providers, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

Scaling Education Pathways in Illinois

Scaling Education Pathways in Illinois (SEPI) is an initiative to address the teacher shortage in the state by creating community collaborations to build education career pathways in public schools, facilitating a student's progression from pupil, to teacher, to instructional leader. The SEPI Request for Proposals (RFP) provides community collaborations with the opportunity to receive up to \$14,000 to establish a continuum of supports and pathways for new teachers that addresses placement and mentorship. Proposals are due on **March 15th at 5:00 p.m.** To access the RFP, [click here](#). *For more information, join the informational webinar on February 15th at 1:00 p.m. Please [email Sandy Garza](#) to be added to the webinar calendar invite.*

National Community Transformation Block Grant

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services seeks to enter into a cooperative agreement to identify, highlight, and support multiyear community transformation efforts that move individuals, families, and communities towards improving human capacity, reducing dependency, and sustaining self-sufficiency. Organizations are asked to develop innovative transformation plans to encourage systemic improvements by leveraging resources to improve quality of life for low-income individuals and families. The deadline to apply is **June 7th**. To learn more, [click here](#).

Earth Science Celebration Materials

If you are planning an Earth Science celebration for your program's youth this season, use [NOAA SciJinks](#) as a resource to provide stickers, bookmarks, or temporary tattoos to your attendees at no cost! To receive these free resources, fill out the request form [here](#).

For an archive of our previously listed Funding Opportunities, click [here](#).

Resources for Providers

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

STEM Signing Day

Like signing days for athletes, the Chicago STEM Signing Day will celebrate high school seniors from across the Chicagoland area as they sign their STEM Letters of Intent during a ceremony attended by parents, principals, school administrators, elected officials, and business and community leaders. All currently enrolled Chicago Public School high school seniors who plan to attend a two- or four-year college/university or certificate program and pursue a STEM degree or

program are eligible to apply. The deadline to apply is **March 15th**. For more information, [click here](#). To access the application, [click here](#).

We Love Afterschool

Through February 14th, celebrate the millions of reasons to love America's afterschool programs during *We Love Afterschool!* Joining in can make for an easy and fun activity for your program in the days leading up to Valentine's Day. [Click here](#) to access a printable sheet for participants to decorate with the reasons they love afterschool, as well as some customizable social media samples to share your story.

Call for Resources

Do you have valuable resources, stories, or best practices to share with the afterschool field? Please click [here](#) to share your resources with ACT Now and we will disseminate them (via our newsletter and website) to other providers across the state! If you have any questions, please contact Faith Knocke (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) KnockeF@metrofamily.org

NOTE: We are now sorting our trainings and resources by the Core Areas in the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards to promote better understanding and implementation of the Standards. Dark blue headings denote a Core Area. To learn more about the Quality Standards, click [here](#).

Do you find the ACT Now newsletter to be a quality resource for your program? If so, please consider making a contribution to ACT Now so that we may continue to provide free resources to afterschool program providers, and, in turn, create a brighter future for the state of afterschool programs in Illinois!

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