



Policy Updates

ISBE Board Meeting Recap

On April 17, 2019, the Illinois State Board of Education met for their monthly meeting. You can find the board packet [here](#). The Board spent the majority of the meeting assessing and addressing the Illinois teacher shortage. The Board then heard public comments around the CPS Special Education Corrective Action plan, as well as legislation regarding the Illinois teacher shortage. Additionally, the Board approved a new budget recommendation that includes an amended line item for district intervention. Aside from that amendment, ISBE's budget recommendation still mirrors the Governor's budget and does not include afterschool programs and community schools. **We encourage you to continue sending messages to your legislators supporting afterschool programs and community schools by [clicking here](#).** The Board will meet next on May 15, 2019. For more details, [click here](#).

Illinois Science Education Week

Governor JB Pritzker has declared the week of April 22-26 as Illinois Science Education Week. This week celebrates the role of high-quality science education in developing the innovative thinkers and problem-solvers Illinois needs to lead the country and the world. Visit isbe.net/science and follow Illinois State Board of Education's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages for a full week of science education resources.

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

Trainings and Events

ACT Now Trivia Night!

Grab your friends and join ACT Now for a brain busting evening of trivia, food, fellowship, and fun. Players have a chance to win a \$100 event gift card and various awesome raffle items! All money raised from this event will go towards supporting our work of advocating to legislators about the need for afterschool programs in Illinois and ensuring that quality

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afterschool programs exist all across the state! This event will be held in **Chicago on May 14th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** For more information or 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 a free professional development opportunity. Light refreshments provided. (See below for a schedule of upcoming meetings.)

Upcoming Community School Providers Meetings:

- **Chicago: May 1st (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)** at the ACT Now Offices. Topics: Policy Updates and Family Engagement. Speakers: Susan Stanton (ACT Now), Sarah Ogeto (UIC), Eric Werge (YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago). **To register, [click here](#).**
- **Downstate (Telenet): May 6th (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)** via web conference. Topics: Policy Updates, Messaging, and Outcomes/Evaluation. Speakers: Susan Stanton (ACT Now) and Joie Frankovich (WeGo Together for Kids). **To register, [click here](#).**
- **Wheaton: May 14th (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)** at the Metropolitan Family Services office. Topics: Policy Updates, Messaging, and Needs Assessments. Speakers: Susan Stanton (ACT Now) and Hannah Mngwamba (Metropolitan Family Services). **To register, [click here](#).**

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Summer Brain Games

Join the Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) this summer to learn how you can use their Brain Games to make science fun and accessible for kids and educators. Learn about engineering, physics and exciting STEM activities, such as making a kite, starting a band with DIY musical instruments, creating a kaleidoscope, and more! MSI is offering two upcoming SBG workshops (see schedule below).

Upcoming Brain Games Workshops

- **Chicago: April 30th - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ([Register for the Wait List](#))**
- **Bloomington: May 2nd - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))**

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

Youth Opportunities

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ISBE Art Display Submissions

Superintendent Ayala is decorating the walls of the Illinois State Board of Education offices in Springfield and Chicago with student artwork! These framed images will provide a daily reminder of Illinois students' magnificent talents and potential and why we do what we do. Schools all across Illinois are invited to submit student artwork. Please submit any artwork to ISBE by **May 1st**. Contact Max Weiss at mweiss@isbe.net for specific submission guidelines and questions.

Summer Reading Challenge

[Scholastic](#)'s Read-a-Palooza is a free program where kids enter summer reading minutes online, unlocking digital rewards as they complete weekly reading challenges; and access book excerpts, videos, and other summer-exclusive content. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Documentary Showcase

Media Process Group (MPG) is working on a proposed sponsored documentary that seeks to showcase a program in the Chicago-land area that encourages kids or adults to spend more time outdoors. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

First Book Awards

The Illinois AfterSchool Network has been selected to distribute free books to qualifying out-of-school time programs throughout the state of Illinois. For more information contact Curtis Peace at ILafterschoolcp@gmail.com.

Federal Surplus Property

Out-of-school time programs are eligible to receive Federal Surplus Property at a very low cost. Federal Surplus Property includes electronics, instruments, office furniture, kitchen supplies, lawn and garden supplies, heavy equipment, tools and more. Property is available in the program's warehouse in Springfield, as well as from around the country. Visit the [Federal Surplus Property site](#) for more information.

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

External Job Opportunity

ISACorps Near-Peer Mentors

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is looking for recent college graduates to work all over the state of Illinois to help students and parents navigate the college/career exploration, preparation, and planning process in support of the state's 60 by 25 goal. The full job posting and information on how to apply is available [here](#).

Resources for Providers

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Digital Citizenship Lessons

The key to teaching digital citizenship skills is to give youth opportunities to grapple with the different ethical questions that come along with living in our digital world. Check out these [lesson plans](#) to learn more about how to help kids develop both the skills and habits they need to thrive in our increasingly complex digital world.

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](#).

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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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