



*****URGENT ACTION REQUIRED*****

ESSA Parent & Partner Survey

Since the approval of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan in 2017, the Illinois State Board of Education continues to receive feedback on the implementation of the plan. Thanks to the advocacy of one of ACT Now's partners, ISBE has redeveloped their ESSA survey to be more welcoming and inviting for parents and partners to comment on the proposed ESSA amendments in order to engage a diverse groups of stakeholders. The survey is live and **closes on July 31st**. This is not a long window, so be sure to complete the survey and disseminate this information to families and partners as soon as possible. The survey can be found in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Policy Updates

State Updates

Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program

Gov. JB Pritzker recently signed a bill that creates a \$33 billion, six-year transportation capital program in the state. For the first time ever, \$50 million a year will go toward walking and bicycling projects. This significant investment will help to reduce fatality rates and increase safe, active transport throughout the state, especially in communities of greatest need. Transportation, safe transport in particular, is a significant hurdle to enrollment in afterschool programs. Lack of safe transportation to and from afterschool programs often factors into families' decision not to enroll their child in an afterschool program.

Federal Updates

FY20 Appropriations

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin announced Thursday that the Administration and Congressional leaders have reached an agreement on how much to raise the caps on defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding for fiscal year 2020 and 2021, as well as raise the debt ceiling for two years. However, there are still important and possibly difficult details to work out, including what savings to include to offset some or all of the increased spending compared with the sequester-level discretionary caps currently in place. For example, a \$100 million increase to the 21st Community Learning Centers program was approved by the House, but has yet to be taken on by the Senate due to the spending caps issue. Congress is scheduled to go on recess at the end of July meaning time is running out to finalize a budget caps deal.

RISE from Trauma Act

The [Resilience Investment, Support, and Expansion \(RISE\) from Trauma Act](#) expands upon a [GAO report](#) released last month by Sen. Durbin (D-IL) and Rep. Davis (D-IL) and would help to build the trauma informed workforce and increase resources for communities to support children who have experienced trauma. Bill sponsors include U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and U.S. Representatives Danny Davis (D-IL-07) and Mike Gallagher (R-WI-08). The RISE from Trauma Act would expand and support the trauma-informed workforce in schools, health care settings, social services, first responders, and the justice system, and increase resources for communities to address the impact of trauma.

At the House Oversight Committee [hearing](#) on childhood trauma held on July 11th, the Committee heard directly from trauma survivors, public health experts, and government officials to examine the long-term consequences of childhood trauma and the insufficiency of the federal response to this urgent public health issue. Witness Dr. Debra Houry, Director, National Center for Injury Prevention & Control, on behalf of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mentioned afterschool as a protective factor and [Afterschool Matters](#) in Chicago as a specific example when asked by Rep. Carol Miller (WV-3) about ways to mitigate childhood trauma resulting from the impacts of the opioid crisis on families and communities.

Democratic Presidential Forum

The National Education Association (NEA) hosted 2020 presidential candidates at its annual Representative Assembly this month. Candidates

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appeared on stage one-by-one to answer questions on public education. Check out [this article](#) to learn about the key takeaways from the forum.

Public Charge Update

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Justice (DOJ) public charge proposals are now at the Office of Management and Budget. For the **DHS rule**, this means that the rule is in the final stages of processing. We still do not know when a final rule could be published, but it is a strong signal that it may be finalized soon. For the **DOJ rule**, on [public charge as a basis for deportation](#), this means that the initial proposed rule is being reviewed. This is a signal that we can anticipate a public comment period in the next few months.

Summer Meals & Learning Act

The Summer Meals and Learning Act ([S. 2070](#), [H.R. 3667](#)) was introduced last week by Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley, along with Congressmen Joseph Morelle (D-NY-25) and John Katko (R-NY-24). The legislation would address summer learning inequality by keeping libraries open at schools that already serve free summer meals.

Farm to School Act

The Farm to School Act ([H.R. 3562](#), [S. 2026](#)) was introduced by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representative Marcia Fudge (D-OH). The Farm to School Act would:

- Increase annual funding to \$15 million and increase grant award maximum to \$250,000
- Advance equity by prioritizing grants that engage diverse farmers and serve high-need schools
- Fully include early care and education sites, summer food service sites & after school programs
- Increase access among tribal schools to traditional foods, especially from tribal producers

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

Trainings and Events

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

Youth Opportunities

Karma 4 Cara Microgrants

Students 18 years of age and under may apply for funds between \$250 and \$1,000 to complete service projects in their communities. Projects can include things like turning a vacant lot into a community garden, helping senior citizens ready their homes for the winter, and more! **The deadline to apply is ongoing.** To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

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

Funding Opportunities

Fuel Up to Play 60

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Fuel Up to Play 60 is accepting applications for funds that can be used to conduct programs in schools focused on creating a healthier school and to implement Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Plays. Funds can also be used for professional development, nutrition education materials, and physical education equipment & materials. **The deadline to apply is ongoing.** To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Illinois Career Guide

The Illinois State Board of Education has produced a 44-page [Career Guide](#) for the 2019-20 school year, meant to better educate students, parents, teachers and counselors on various career paths available to students right here in Illinois.

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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