



## **INTRODUCING: *The Afterschool Archive*** **An Out-of-School Time Blog**

### **Will Cannabis Legalization in Illinois Benefit Youth Development Programs?**

On June 4, 2019, the [Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act \(HB1438\)](#) passed both houses of the Illinois General Assembly, and was signed by Governor JB Pritzker on June 25, 2019. The final version of the act that passed has a strong emphasis on violence prevention by locally designed community-based programs. It creates the Restore, Reinvest, and Renew Program (R3) to reduce gun violence and concentrated poverty. Under this program, Illinois will direct funding to areas with high economic disinvestment, rates of gun violence, unemployment, child poverty, and levels of incarceration. To read more about how this funding could benefit afterschool programs, [click here](#).

## **Policy Updates**

### **Federal Updates**

#### **Building Blocks of STEM Act**

The [Building Blocks of STEM Act](#), which passed the House on July 23rd, directs the National Science Foundation to more equitably allocate funding for research with a focus on early childhood. The bill also directs the

foundation to support research on the factors that discourage or encourage girls to engage in STEM activities.

### Afterschool & the 2020 Presidential Candidates

With the 2020 presidential election 16 months away, more than 25 politicians and business leaders have declared themselves candidates. Education has been a popular campaign topic for many candidates, from student loan forgiveness to increasing teacher pay, however several candidates have gone on the record in support of afterschool and summer learning programs as well. As of July 2018, [here is where the 2020 candidates stand](#) with regard to support for afterschool programs.

### Intersection Between CTE & Afterschool Programs

On June 25, 2019, the [Senate Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) Caucus](#) and [Afterschool Alliance](#) convened a briefing to discuss the newest iteration of Perkins that went into effect on July 1, 2019: [Perkins V](#). This new legislation aims to increase learner access to high-quality CTE programs by focusing on systems alignment and program improvement. The briefing focused on providing facts on Perkins V and the importance of afterschool programs, data, and suggestions on ways that states can use the reauthorization to benefit all students. For a summary of topics covered at the CTE briefing, [click here](#).

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

## Trainings and Events

### Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

#### Webinar: Integrating 3D Printing

Join [NextWaveSTEM](#) to learn how to supercharge your STEM programs using emerging 3D printing technology. This webinar will guide you through the importance of exposing students to the Engineering Design Process, while utilizing 3D printers in the classroom. This webinar will be held on **July 31st from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.** To register, [click here](#).

## Safety, Health, & Nutrition

### Webinar: Back-to-School Mental Health

During this webinar, attendees will learn about the value of children's mental health treatment, trends in society, the importance of normalizing development with psychiatric intervention when identified early and the challenges created by the nationwide shortage of psychiatrists. This webinar will be held **August 6th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.** To register, [click here](#).

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

## Youth Opportunities

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

## Opportunities for Providers

### Lights On Afterschool 2019

[Lights On Afterschool](#) (LOA) is the only **nationwide celebration** of everything afterschool programs do for students, families and communities across the country. It is an event not only for recognizing the extraordinary value of these programs, but also for putting a spotlight on the need for more funding. Tell the [Afterschool Alliance](#) how you plan to celebrate! When you [register your event](#) as an official LOA 2019 celebration, you'll receive an event starter kit, which includes 10 free posters to help you promote your event, and makes you eligible for cool prizes each week.

### Free KIND Bars for LOA 2019

We're thrilled to announce that KIND is celebrating Lights On Afterschool again! For a limited time, KIND is donating 150 free KIND Simple Crunch and KIND Kids snacks to programs for Lights On Afterschool celebrations. These went fast last year, and supplies are limited, so [register now for Lights On Afterschool!](#) (You must complete the full registration form; offer available until supplies run out.)

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

## Funding Opportunities

### Aim High Grant WINNERS!

Congratulations to the winners of the New York Life Foundation's 2019 Aim High grant competition, which includes two of Illinois' own: [High Jump](#) and [Heartland Human Care Services!](#) The Aim High initiative is part of the New York Life Foundation's ongoing investment in out-of-school time programs to help underserved 8th graders reach the 9th grade on time and prepared for high school level work.

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

## Resources for Providers

### ACT Now's Starting an Afterschool Program Toolkit

Starting an afterschool program is a rewarding but sometimes daunting task. [This guide](#) outlines the necessary components of an afterschool program and provides guidance on how to cultivate quality within your program. Check it out in order to gain information on how to strengthen your existing program or share it with those who are interested in starting their own program!

## Provider Resilience App

Through psychoeducation and self-assessments, [Provider Resilience](#) gives frontline providers tools to keep themselves productive and emotionally healthy as they support our nation's youth.

## **Youth Development, Programming, & Activities**

### Resources for Revolutionizing STEM Education

Before the rise of the internet, one of the few paths to success in STEM fields was to go to a good (and usually expensive) school. Today, the internet provides unlimited access to high-quality, free and educational resources for almost any age or skill group. [Check out these five organizations](#) and unpack not only what they are doing to revolutionize STEM education via the internet, but why it matters and how your program can learn from their initiatives.

## **Were you forwarded this email?**

**[Click Here](#) to Subscribe to the ACT Now Newsletter!**

## **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](mailto: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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