

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

Public Charge in Illinois Update

Several federal court orders are blocking the public charge rule from going into effect. On October 14, 2019, the federal district court judge in the lawsuit pending in the Northern District of Illinois granted the motion for the injunction for Illinois, thus blocking implementation of the public charge rule in Illinois. These court orders could still be overturned, and the rule could still go into effect, but we will have notice when this might happen. However, for now the rule cannot be implemented in Illinois.

Teacher Strikes & Afterschool Programs

The school year has just begun and many teachers across the US, from California to Illinois, are on strike for improved working conditions, wages, and student support services. Teacher strikes are difficult for everyone – teachers, administrators, youth, and their families. They are equally difficult for school-based, afterschool programs. The Afterschool Alliance spoke with an afterschool provider on the front lines about some of the challenges. To learn more, [click here](#).

State Updates

ISBE Board Meeting Recap

On October 15 & 16, 2019, the Illinois State Board of Education met in East St. Louis for their monthly meeting. You can find the board packet [here](#). The Board heard presentations from two districts who have received district intervention funds (East St. Louis and North Chicago). Both districts showed improvements and East St. Louis acknowledged the support of the GEAR UP program in making these improvements. The Board also approved their legislative agenda for the year (see pages 15-16 in the Board Packet). The Board provided updates on ESSA and Perkins V. In terms of ESSA, ISBE must complete a review of the ESSA implementation process by August 2020. The Board will discuss action items and a timeline for this process at the November meeting. In terms of Perkins V, the state planning team has finalized a draft of the state plan and a statewide listening tour to gather stakeholder feedback is underway. The Board is concerned that the new plan does not differ much from the Perkins IV plan and noted the need for more language about equitable opportunities for youth in the middle grades. Additionally, the Board is concerned that the communication around the state plan draft has been very limited and they asked that the planning team work to improve in that area. On the following day, the Board heard a presentation on the Healthy Community Investment Grant (HCIG). This state line item provides

funds for afterschool programs. The Board will vote on the authorization of HCIG grant awards to school districts and community organizations at the November meeting. Following the meeting, the Board kicked off their FY21 budget hearings. It was noted that those who wish to provide testimony but do not register online ahead of time will likely be added to the very end of the list of public participants. The Board will meet next on **November 22, 2019**. For more details, [click here](#).

Trainings and Events

Webinar: Overview of Chicago Parent Program

The Chicago Parent Program is a 12-session evidence-based program designed to address the needs of parents raising young children in low-income communities. This one hour webinar will provide an overview of the program model, content, implementation, and the evidence supporting its effectiveness in community and mental health settings. This webinar will be held on **November 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** To register, [click here](#).

Bloodborne Pathogens

Join the Illinois AfterSchool Network for an interactive session that teaches staff who work with youth how bloodborne pathogens are spread, how to avoid exposure and what to do if exposed to infectious material. This training assists in satisfying the training requirements of the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard. The training will be held on **November 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Chicago**. Please email Sharroyn Dunbar at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620 for more information or to register. (*Note: This workshop costs \$10 per person.*)

ITSACC Institute

The Office of Child Care is pleased to announce that the 2019 Infant/Toddler & School-Age Child Care (ITSACC) Institute will be **virtual**! The ITSACC Institute is designed to build the capacity of professionals working to manage and support child care systems, particularly those focused on infant/toddler or school-age care policies and practices implemented under the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program. The Institute will start with a kick-off webinar titled Quality: An Equity Lens across the Age Continuum on **November 13th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.** For more information, [click here](#).

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Fermilab STEM Workshop

Fermilab, managed by the Fermi Research Alliance LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science, will provide a STEM workshop for afterschool program providers on **November 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Capital Area Career Center in Springfield, IL**. Fermilab's workshop will provide K–12 afterschool program providers with proven activities and strategies for teaching challenging STEM topics in an engaging way. Fermilab programs are designed and taught by master teachers, and have been updated to align with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). To learn more or to register, [click here](#).

Restorative Justice 101

Join the Illinois AfterSchool Network for an interactive workshop that examines the foundations of restorative justice for youth and the strategies associated with the approach. This workshop will be held on **October 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** in Chicago. Please email Sharroyn Dunbar at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620 for more information or to register. (*Note: This workshop costs \$10 per person.*)

Webinar: Advanced Discipline Methods

Join the Illinois AfterSchool Network for a webinar on developing positive and preventive strategies to effectively guide and facilitate youth's behavior. The webinar will explore Advanced Discipline Methods: Natural Consequences and Logical Consequences and will consider various styles of discipline strategies and their impact throughout one's life. This webinar will be held on **November 6th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** To register, [click here](#).

Introducing Drones in STEM Learning

Join NextWaveSTEM to build a foundational knowledge of how drones can help students to deepen their understanding of STEM and the world around them. The workshop includes an orientation to the Tello Quadcopter Drone and the TelloEdu application; training on pedagogical strategies; suggestions for making drones relevant across a variety of curricular areas; and a collaborative planning session in which providers work together to develop practical plans to implement learning with drones in their schools. This workshop will be held on **November 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Chicago**. To learn more or to register, [click here](#). (*Note: This is a fee-based workshop.*)

Principles of Trauma-Informed Care in OST

Join the Illinois AfterSchool Network to learn how to implement the five core principles of trauma-informed care in the afterschool setting. This training will be held on **November 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Champaign**. Please email Sharroyn Dunbar at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620 for more information or to register. (*Note: This training costs \$10 per person.*)

Developing a Social Emotional Learning Climate

Join the Illinois AfterSchool Network to learn about strategies on how to create safe spaces, learn creative check-ins, check-outs and participate in activities to encourage continued social and emotional learning through instruction. This training will be held on **November 13th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Tremont**. Please email Sharroyn Dunbar at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620 for more information or to register. (*Note: This training costs \$10 per person.*)

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

Youth Opportunities

eCYBERMISSION Competition

[eCYBERMISSION](#) is a web-based STEM competition for students in grades six through nine. Youth are challenged to explore how STEM works in their world while working as a team to solve

problems in their community. Teams compete virtually in state and regional competitions and in-person through the National Judging & Educational Event (NJ&EE). Register and complete your teams by **November 20, 2019**, and your youth will receive a **FREE** STEM Kit!

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

Opportunities for Providers

2020 IAPD/IPRA Conference

As the premier state conference for parks and recreation, forest preserves, and conservation agencies in Illinois, the *IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference* brings together more than 4,000 professionals and elected officials for three exciting days of quality educational programming, networking, and professional development. A key highlight of the 2020 conference includes a collaborative partnership with the Illinois AfterSchool Network (IAN), who will be facilitating multiple sessions for the conference's early childhood, youth, and after-school program track. This conference will be held from **January 23 to 25, 2020**. For more information, [click here](#).

TechGirly TechShopz

TechGirly works to change the way middle school girls think about technology through free, hands-on workshops called TechShopz. Now they share their workshop curriculum with companies, organizations, schools and community groups so they can inspire girls around the world with technology. They have plenty of resources available from **FREE** [lesson plans](#), a [PlayBook](#), and staff support to get your workshop going. For more information, [click here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

Billing & Payments Guide

Do you have billing and payment policies in place at your program? Check out [Navigating Billing & Payments](#) for a fresh take on all things accounts receivable, including best practices, templates, worksheets, and more!

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Enhance & Provide Career Readiness Opportunities in OST

[This brief](#) from the College & Career Readiness & Success Center at AIR looks at ways to leverage afterschool time to prepare students at every stage of career development, from career awareness in kindergarten through sixth grade to career training in eleventh and twelfth grades. The brief offers recommendations for state leaders who are interested in using afterschool programming for career readiness.

K-12 Robotics Apps

K-12 robotics is having more than a moment—it's on its way to establishing itself as a necessary component of a 21st-century education. While it can seem overwhelming, it's not as hard to incorporate K-12 robotics into your classroom. Apps offer an excellent way to gently move into robotics learning without feeling as if you're in over your head. To learn more, explore K-12 robotics apps [here](#).

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