

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Policy Updates

Illinois State Board of Education: 21st Century Community Learning Centers Guidance Released

This past week, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) issued guidance for 21st Century Community Learning Centers and answered frequently asked questions regarding facilitating programming in Fall 2020 and going forward. To read the guidance, click [here](#).

Illinois P-20 Council: August Meeting Update

On **August 7, 2020**, the Illinois P-20 Council convened to review the state's response to COVID-19 over the past several months, update Council members on the ways in which several state agencies have responded to the pandemic, and briefly evaluate data on the projected educational slide in youth due to COVID-19. To begin, there was a recap of the federal aid and legislation in relation to the pandemic.

State Superintendent Dr. Carmen Ayala reported that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has received information regarding reopening plans from 670 out of the state's 852 school districts.

- 47% of districts are planning on facilitating hybrid or "blended" instruction
- 22% of districts are planning on starting the school year remotely
- 31% of districts are going to instruct students in-person

Dr. Ayala noted that ISBE is still awaiting the responses of approximately 180 school districts. Then, attendees listened to a presentation by [NWEA](#), which highlighted the projected COVID-19 slide that youth across the

nation face. To read the full report, click [here](#). Finally, Council members addressed the need for support for child care providers, stressed the importance of engaging students that may never return to higher education if there aren't wrap-around supports, emphasized the need to combat racial injustice, and broke off into small groups to discuss steps to address the aforementioned issues.

Illinois Department of Human Services: Child Care Assistance Program Modification of Guidance Issued

On **August 7, 2020**, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) released its modifications of guidance regarding the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Effective immediately and through the month of October, IDHS is allowing school age care during the school day to accommodate the hybrid learning plans being implemented across Illinois. Please note the following considerations:

- If in-person learning is available at the child's school, CCAP families *must choose that option first*. CCAP will not pay for child care during the time in-person learning is available at the child's school
- If in-person learning is *not* available at the child's school, CCAP will pay for the child to be with a child care provider during that time.
- Parents will be assessed the full-time copayment if the full-time rate is paid
- Part-time care is *less than 5 hours per day* and full-time care is 5 hours per day or more
- The approval is not automatic and must be based on actual child care need as documented by the school and parent work schedule

To read the full guidance, click [here](#).

Chicago Public Schools: Announces Students Will Start Fall 2020 via Remote Instruction

On **August 6, 2020**, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) announced that students in the district will begin the school year learning remotely. The plan states that educators, families, and youth should be prepared to have students participate in remote learning through the first quarter of the year. In an effort to close the digital divide for those who currently do not have access to technology and/or internet, CPS has partnered with Comcast and RCN to provide *all CPS students with devices and high-speed internet*. To read the full announcement, click [here](#). To learn more about this partnership, click [here](#).

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Administration

ACT Now Webinar: Trauma Informed Remote Work

ACT Now is hosting a new training to explore ways to integrate trauma informed practices and principles into building a trauma-informed remote working environment. Attendees will conceptualize the traumatic impact of COVID-19, oppressive structures and inequities, as well as the "new normal" on staff and their day-to-day lives. Participants will also explore how to use the Six Trauma Informed Principles to create emotionally and physically safe workspaces for their staff. This is a FREE training which will be facilitated on **August 12, 2020, and August 13, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.** To register for either training, click [here](#).

**Note: that each training is limited to 50 people. If the training fills up, we will begin a wait list for the training. If you cancel within 48 hours or do not show for the training we will need to charge a \$10 "no-show fee."*

For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, click [here](#).

Resources for Providers

Administration

Playworks: Recess Guidelines

Playworks has released guidelines relating to recess, in both virtual and in-person environments, for afterschool providers and educators. The guidance is based in social-emotional learning competencies and provides examples of activities and games that can be facilitated using low-cost and everyday household items. To review the guidelines, click [here](#).

College Changes Everything 2020 Conference: Recordings of Live Conference Events Now Available

The College Changes Everything 2020 Conference has released all recordings and corresponding materials associated with the eight live sessions that were offered last month. To access these recordings, click [here](#).

Youth Development

The Summer Activity Guide

The FREE Summer Activity Guide continues to be accessible on our website and offers providers a myriad of engaging activities and challenges to facilitate over the Summer and into the Fall. To access these guides and all supporting materials, click [here](#). **Note: Unit 1 has been translated into Spanish and you can access them via our website.*

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

Opportunities for Providers

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

Youth Opportunities

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

Funding Opportunities

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

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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 **Emma Spencer (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate)** at Spencere@actnowillinois.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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