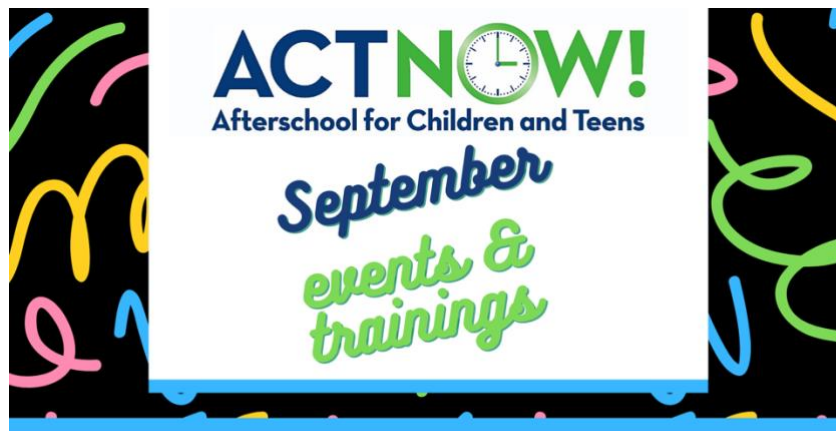


# ACTNOW! NEWSLETTER



- 9/9** 21st Century Program Planning and Grant Management Meeting
- 9/14** Reopening & Remote Learning Webinar
- 9/17** Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment (IL-QPSA) Sneak Peek
- 9/23** Downstate Community Schools Convening
- 9/24** STEM Webinar #1: Teaching About the Public Health Crisis in OST
- 9/30** NBA Math Hoops Training



# Policy Updates

## Federal Policy Updates

### U.S. Department of Education: 21st Century Waiver Issued

On **September 3, 2020**, the U.S. Department of Education announced that it will be issuing a nationwide waiver which will provide 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) grantees with the ability to facilitate programming and provide support services during the school day. This decision will allow State Education Agencies (SEAs), such as the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), to waive the definition of Community Learning Center(s) as being entities only allowed to provide services during “non-school hours or periods when school is not in session (such as before and after school)” during school year 2020-2021. While the notice allows for a 60 day comment period, the U.S. Department of Education is permitted to offer and approve waivers during the comment period. To read more, click [here](#). To review the waiver request, click [here](#).

### U.S House of Representatives: 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020 Proposed

On **September 4, 2020**, U.S. Representatives Susan Wild (D-PA) along with Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Dwight Evans (D-PA), and Don Young (R-AK), proposed the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020 in the House. This bill provides flexibility for grantees to facilitate either in-person or remote programming during traditional school hours when school is occurring not physically in-person, but rather virtually or in a hybrid setting. The legislation only applies to the 2020-2021 school year. To read more about the proposed bill, click [here](#).

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

# Trainings, Events and Webinars

## Administration

### ACT Now Webinar: 21st Century Program Planning and Grant Management

**ACT Now** will be hosting a webinar for 21st Century Program providers to discuss challenges they are facing with reopening, planning for this school year, and constraints on programs' grants on **today at 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** There will be opportunities for providers to share concerns and how people are adapting for an untraditional and unprecedented school year. To register for this training, please fill out the following form [here](#). *\*Note: After you fill out the form, you will receive a Zoom link within 1 business day. You must fill out all mandatory fields in order to register for the training.*

Please email Susan Stanton at: [stantons@actnowillinois.org](mailto:stantons@actnowillinois.org) with any questions.

### ACT Now Webinar: Reopening and Remote Learning

**ACT Now** will be holding a webinar for providers on Reopening and Remote Learning! Join us on **September 14, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** for a discussion on the diverse reopening plans in Illinois, share remote learning strategies and best practices for virtual programming with peers, hear from colleagues as they describe their successes and challenges regarding reopening, and receive resources. To register for this training, please fill out the following form [here](#). *\*Note: After you fill out the form, you will receive a GoToWebinar link within 24 hours. You must fill out all mandatory fields in order to register for the webinar.*

Please email Susan Stanton at: [stantons@actnowillinois.org](mailto:stantons@actnowillinois.org) with any questions.

### ACT Now Webinar: Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment Tool (IL-QPSA) Sneak Peek

The Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment (IL-QPSA) is an online strengths-based self-assessment tool that allows individual out-of-school time (OST) providers the opportunity to self-assess on their performance based on the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards.

Join us for a sneak peek webinar to walk you through the tool, as well as the assessment process! This webinar will be hosted on **September 17, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. CT**. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

### ACT Now: Community Schools Convenings

**ACT Now** will continue to host training events for Community Schools (CS) providers throughout the state during FY21. Please note that more information regarding the regional convenings, is located on our Community Schools Corner page [here](#). *\*Note: The registration link for the first CS event for each regional group is live!*

## Upcoming FY21 Community Schools Trainings

*Downstate*

SEPT. 23  
NOV. 12  
FEB. 12  
MAR. 25

*Suburbs*

OCT. 14  
DEC. 17  
FEB. 22  
APR. 14

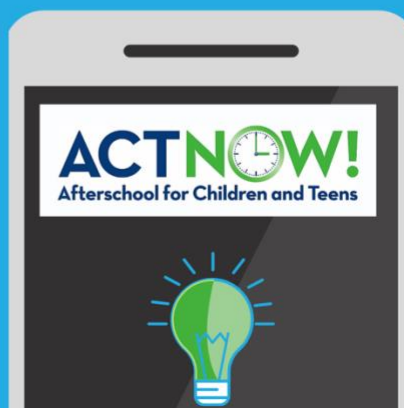
*Chicago*

OCT. 15  
OCT. 16  
DEC. 8  
DEC. 9  
FEB. 23  
APR. 22

**IMPORTANT!**

*\*Registration links will be developed for each meeting and based upon your regional group*

For more information, head to the Community Schools Corner on our website!



## Youth Development

### ACT Now Training: NBA Math Hoops

The NBA Math Hoops program harnesses the competitive fun of a board game in the culturally relevant context of the NBA in order to both develop the cognitive skills of basic arithmetic, decision-making, and visual analysis while simultaneously developing students' intrinsic interest in the real world application of math. On **September 30, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., ACT Now** will be holding a workshop to teach afterschool providers how they can implement NBA Math Hoops in their own programs. Participants will receive free access to NBA Math Hoops materials. To register for this event, click [here](#).

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

## Resources for Providers

### Youth Development

#### Science Olympiad Curricula: New Science Olympiad STEM Program

Science Olympiad has developed a new and engaging STEM program called MY SO that allows students to participate in Science Olympiad curricula while at home, at school, and during afterschool programming. MY SO is a 9-month program and focuses on subjects such as epidemiology, space, structures, and more! There are free lesson plans with hands-on activities, videos focused on careers and educational pathways, and a monthly competition. There are also opportunities for youth to interact with professionals in the STEM fields. For more information on MY SO, click [here](#).

#### MSN Article: Three Things to Look for in STEM Activities for Kids

MSN has published a short article with three best practices for providers to utilize when searching for, and reviewing, STEM activities and STEM kits for afterschool programming. To read the article, click [here](#).

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

## Opportunities for Providers

### Afterschool Alliance: Lights On Afterschool 2020 Swag!

The annual Lights On Afterschool (LOA) event is approaching soon! On **October 22, 2020**, we will be celebrating and elevating the integral supports afterschool programs and extended-learning experiences are providing youth and their families across Illinois. The Afterschool Alliance is offering to send posters and other cool swag items such as bags, stickers, buttons, and more, to programs that register their LOA event by **September 10, 2020**, regardless if its in-person or virtual! To register, click [here](#).

Don't forget to take a look at the LOA [virtual event planning kit](#) for ways to showcase and celebrate your program during COVID, and check out the new [graphics and social media tools](#).

*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](#).*

## 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 **Emma Spencer (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate)** at [Spencere@actnowillinois.org](mailto: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](#).**

[Unsubscribe](#)