

# ACTNOW!

## NEWSLETTER



### *September*

**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

### *October*

**10/7** Community Schools in Illinois: An Effective Strategy to Address Equity, Health, and Academics in Our Schools

**10/8** Virtual Quality Standards Training 101

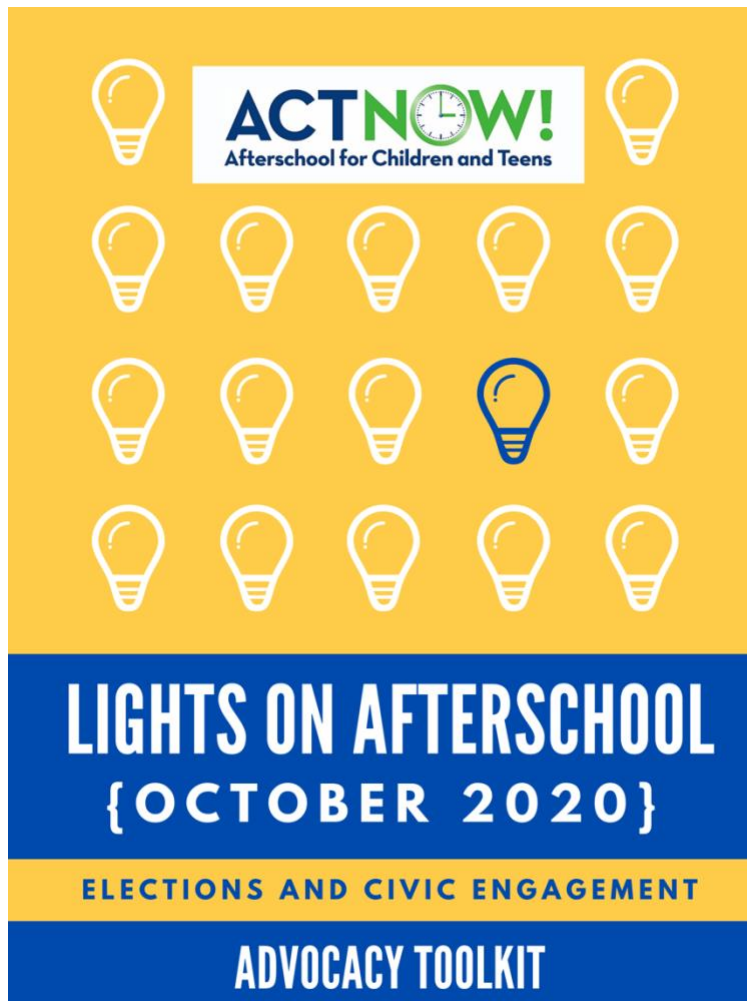
**10/14** Suburbs Community Schools Convening

## Lights On Afterschool 2020 Toolkit

Lights On Afterschool is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families, and communities. We know that Out-Of-School Time (OST) providers have been integral in responding to the diverse needs of young people and their communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and continue to offer holistic supports as we approach the fall.

Join us by celebrating afterschool on **October 22nd!**

Use our toolkit in order to advocate for the field, host an event (virtual or in-person), and share what afterschool means to you! To access the toolkit, click [here](#).



# Policy Updates

## State Policy

### Illinois P-20 Council: September Meeting Summary

On **September 18, 2020**, the Illinois P-20 Council met. During this meeting, Council members split up into groups to discuss how COVID-19 was affecting education throughout the P-20 spectrum. Group topics included remote learning, increasing instructional time, innovating around assessment and credit, supporting the whole child, and strengthening the talent pipeline. Moving forward, the P-20 Council is exploring meeting bimonthly, instead of quarterly, in order to properly address the issues exacerbated by COVID-19.

### Illinois State Board of Education: Yearly Retreat and September Board Meeting Recap

On **September 16 and 17, 2020**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) met for its yearly retreat and its monthly board meeting. To access the meeting materials, click [here](#). **ISBE voted to release After School Program funding for school districts and non-profits for this fiscal year. We are hoping that the school district funding will be available in IWAS and the NOFO for non-profits will be released next month.** ISBE also discussed its strategic plan, supporting equity in Illinois schools, changes to teacher licensure, Illinois Priority Learning Standards, the KIDS Assessment, and IL-EMPOWER. ISBE also talked about pursuing legislations during veto session to provide districts flexibility in using relief funding that is not tied just to "disaster" relief funding. ISBE's [next board meeting](#) will take place on **October 21, 2020**. The Board also has upcoming budget hearings in October. To find more details about the budget hearings, click [here](#).

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

## Trainings, Events and Webinars

### Administration

#### ACT Now: Community Schools Convenings

**ACT Now** will continue to host training events for Community Schools (CS) providers throughout the state during FY21. On **September 23, 2020**, **ACT Now** is hosting the first meeting for Downstate providers. To register for this training on Trauma and Youth Development, click [here](#).

Please note that more information regarding the regional convenings, and the corresponding registration links, is located on our Community Schools Corner page [here](#).

**Upcoming FY21 Community Schools Trainings**

<i>Downstate</i>	<i>Suburbs</i>	<i>Chicago</i>
SEPT. 23	OCT. 14	OCT. 15
NOV. 12	DEC. 17	OCT. 16
FEB. 12	FEB. 22	DEC. 8
MAR. 25	APR. 14	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!

## **Illinois Student Assistance Commission: Free Application for Federal Student Aid Symposium**

In **August 2019**, Governor Pritzker signed legislation that, beginning with this school year, requires public high school students to complete the Free Application fo Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a state aid application as a condition of graduation. This declaration may increase the number of students who are aware of the resources available to help them afford education or training after high school. On **September 29, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.**, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is hosting a symposium in order to:

- Prepare students and families for the FAFSA or Alternative Application
- Support high schools' FAFSA or Alternative Application completion efforts
- Assist students virtually with their financial aid applications

- Share out ISAC resources and support available to school districts and organizations

To learn more about the symposium and to see the scheduled sessions, click [here](#).



**ACT Now Event: Community Schools in Illinois - An Effective Strategy to Address Equity, Health, and Academics in Our Schools**

Community schools are public schools that partner with families and community-based organizations to provide well-rounded educational opportunities and supports for students' school success. In Illinois, community schools can be found throughout the state and the model continues to gain traction and expand.

Over the past several months, **ACT Now** has collaborated with community schools to develop a report on their impact. **ACT Now** seeks to share our findings on these effective partners and holistic support systems with you. We will also have the opportunity to hear from community schools providers themselves as they describe the diverse actions they took to respond to their youths' and communities' needs relating to COVID-19 and racial injustice.

On **October 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, please join us for an engaging virtual discussion of our research and connect with community schools providers. Featured speakers include Representative Theresa Mah and more! To register, click [here](#).

### **ACT Now Training: Illinois Quality Standards 101**

**ACT Now** is providing free online training on the Illinois Statewide Quality Standards in order to help afterschool providers and staff continuously improve the quality of their programs. Join us on **October 8, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** to:

- dive deep into the background in the Standards
- discuss the benefits of the Standards and the research that link links quality programming to positive outcomes for youth
- explore how to align the Standards with other quality tools
- create a plan for implementing the Standards and developing strategies for overcoming obstacles in implementing quality initiatives
- discuss how to use the Standards in work

To register for the training, click [here](#).

## **Youth Development**

### **ACT Now STEM Webinar: Talking About the Public Health Crisis in STEM & OST**

On **September 24, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, **ACT Now** will be facilitating the first webinar in our STEM series. The webinar is for afterschool providers interested in fostering conversations with youth about COVID-19 and the scientific implications and innovations the public health crisis has pushed professionals in the STEM sectors to come up with. Hear from colleagues in the Out-of-School Time (OST) field that are implementing STEM programming and real-life epidemiologists about how STEM competencies are intertwined with the discovery of COVID-19, development of mitigation practices, the process of tracking the pandemic,

and the establishment of health and safety precautions. To register for the event, click [here](#).

### **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**

### **Administration**

#### **Coalition for Community Schools at the Institute for Educational Leadership: Coordinators Appreciation Week**

Coordinators Appreciation Week is this WEEK (September 21-25)! Join ACT Now in celebrating our Community Schools coordinators by using this [toolkit](#) developed by the [Coalition for Community Schools at the Institute for Educational Leadership](#). Elevate Illinois Community Schools Coordinators and share why Community Schools are so integral in supporting young people and their families!

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

## **Opportunities for Providers**

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## 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?

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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](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](#).**

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