

ACT NOW!

NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Updates

Illinois Department of Public Health: Update Frequently Asked Questions Document for Schools

On **June 7, 2021**, the [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#) released an updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document for Schools. There is information regarding supporting staff and youth that are ill, COVID1-19 testing, screening, and vaccinations. There is also guidance for facilitating programming in community settings. Questions regarding COVID-19 testing in schools can be directed to DPH.COVIDSchool@Illinois.gov. Those interested in participating in SHIELD Illinois, the screening initiative for the State, can email Beth Heller, at bheller@uillinois.edu.

Illinois State Board of Education: Back to School 2020-2021 Sample Letters to Families about COVID-19 Vaccinations

Last week, the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) released a variety of sample letters to parents and families for community-based organizations to communicate about options for eligible children to receive the COVID-19 vaccine if their district did not host a vaccination event. Below, you can find translated documents to share with your community members and partners.

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [Arabic](#)
- [Chinese Simplified](#)
- [Chinese Traditional](#)
- [Polish](#)
- [Tagalog](#)
- [Urdu](#)

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
Administration	Protecting Immigrant Families	PIF State of Play Webinar	June 22, 2021, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	RESCHEDULED: 21st Century Town Hall	June 28, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	CASEL	Social and Emotional Learning and Young People's Futures	June 18, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	National Girls Collaborative Project	Curious about Curiosity Camp? IF/THEN Collection Resources to Support Girls in STEM	June 22, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	YWCA Metro Chicago	3rd Annual Girls Education Conference: Evolving Learning Experiences in a COVID World	June 24, 2021, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service	2021 Central Illinois Volunteerism Conference Virtual Summit: Adapting Volunteer Programs in Changing Times	June 25, 2021	REGISTER
	Illinois Student Assistance Commission	2021 Virtual College Changes Everything Conference <i>*ACT Now will be presenting at this conference!</i>	July 12, 2021, to July 16, 2021	REGISTER

Youth Development	American Youth Policy Forum	Connecting Youth to Jobs, During & After the Pandemic	June 24, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.	Information forthcoming
Family and Community Partnerships	FOUS Youth Development Services	Know Your Rights	TODAY from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[4-H Fact Sheet: Supporting Productive Educator Practices for Out-of-School Time](#)

[4-H](#) has released new fact sheet called Supporting Productive Educator Practices for Out-of-School Time which aims to highlight the best practices and examples of teaching youth in virtual environments. The document emphasizes data on how online learning environments provided opportunities for youth to learn, grow, and practice around a subject matter that were similar to the opportunities provided in physical learning environments during the pandemic. Ultimately, the fact sheet makes the case for facilitating hybrid afterschool experiences.

Youth Development

[Million Girls Moonshot: Engineering and STEM Resources for Afterschool and Learning from Home](#)

Activities for Providers

- [4 Great Outdoor Activities to Do With Kids This Summer - 4-H](#): These easy and outdoors activities are designed to be in accordance to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Utilizing these games, youth will participate in outdoor games, plant a garden, make ice cream, and work through a scavenger hunt.
- [Art Infused with STEM Learning Activities Makes for a Colorful Time](#): This simple approach to STEM uses outdoor experiences and art to engage young children in math and science discussions. The activities not only build upon one another but build off children's curiosity. They are also very easy to facilitate in an in-person environment.
- [Design Your Own Snazzy Sneaker](#): Youth use an engineering design process to design a shoe that meets design requirements they specify.

- [Team Building for STEM Challenges](#): In this team building activity, youth work together to lift an object by using a set of strings attached to a center ring. Each student grabs a few strings and must work together to raise the item in the center. The task requires concentration and communication and introduces the value of teamwork
- [The Mizzen By Mott app](#) delivers inspiring and engaging activities that spark learning in young people. Supported by the Mott Foundation, Mizzen is available at no cost to afterschool professionals!

Activities for Families:

- [Top 10 Summer Math Activities](#): This is a series of discussions with math experts for parents. These activities elevate ideas about how to adapt to the current situation, take advantage of informal situations, and move forward during the summer.
- [Free Printable Summer Math Games](#): Families and providers can access a free month of activities, videos, and fun experiences. These games are for grades 1-8.

[eSchool News Article: 5 Ways to Boost Student Engagement in STEM Learning](#)

[eSchool News](#) has written an article elevating five important strategies for engaging youth in STEM learning. The article hosts free resources to encourage young people to dive deep into STEM programming.

[eSchool News Article: 16 College and Career Readiness Resources](#)

[eSchool News](#) has compiled a variety of resources and materials relating to college and career exploration for educators and afterschool professionals to utilize in programming. The resources are based in Social-Emotional Learning competencies, touch upon STEM careers and diversity, and are available for remote and in-person instruction.

Family and Community Partnerships

ACT Now: Resources for Understanding and Teaching Youth About Juneteenth

First celebrated on **June 19, 1866**, Juneteenth marks the day that African Americans living in Texas first learned that the Civil War had ended and slavery had been abolished. Though the holiday has existed for 155 years, both as a day of remembrance and celebration, very few students learn about Juneteenth in school. To learn more about the origins of Juneteenth and how to share its history with younger generations, visit:

- [Learning for Justice: Teaching Juneteenth](#)
- [New York Times: So You Want to Learn About Juneteenth?](#)
- [Read, Write, Think: Classroom Resources, Calendar Activities, and More for Juneteenth](#)
- [National Museum of African American History and Culture: Celebrating Juneteenth](#)

[National Summer Learning Association Website: Discover Summer!](#)

[The National Summer Learning Association \(NSLA\)](#) has developed [DiscoverSummer.org](#), a new online destination, launched in response to COVID-19, to help families discover affordable summer programs, summer meals, tips and resources to keep kids learning, earning, safe and healthy this summer.

[Afterschool Alliance Brief: Summer Programming](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) released new data demonstrating the importance of summer programming for Black and Latinx families. Insights include support from parents and families before the pandemic and the barriers for accessing quality summer learning experiences for youth. There is information available by State, too!

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Food Research & Action Center: SNAP Data Released](#)

[The Food Research & Action Center \(FRAC\)](#) has released data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The research indicates that the national participation in SNAP among U.S. citizen children in households with a non-citizen dropped by 22.5 percent from FY18 to FY19. This is a decrease that is five times greater than that of the decrease in participation among U.S. citizen children in citizen-only households, and is alarming given that the program helps to feed and support youth in Illinois!

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

ACT Now: Afterschool Resource and Support and Specialists

We are soliciting applications for two new full-time positions! Eligible candidates must have a dedicated interest in youth development and the ability to start Summer 2021. To learn more about each of these unique opportunities:

- [Afterschool Resource and Support and Specialist \(Teen REACH\)](#)
- [Afterschool Resource and Support and Specialist \(School Partnerships\)](#)

Both of these positions are open and ready to be filled immediately. Please note that the application is different depending upon the position. Please submit applications by **June 30, 2021**, but applications will be accepted until they are filled.

[Afterschool Alliance: Share Your COVID-19 Experience via Survey](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) recently released survey data highlighting how two-thirds of families and parents of school-age children are comfortable sending their child to in-person summer activities. The Alliance is now asking out-of-school time providers to complete the fifth iteration of a [brief survey](#) to help document the ways in which the pandemic continues to impact your program, the supports your program is providing to the children and families in your community, and lift up the short- and long-term effects of COVID-19 on the afterschool field as a whole. **All those who complete the survey will be entered into a drawing for the chance to win one of 50 gift cards in the amount of \$50! Five winners will be selected at random each week the survey is open.** The survey should take no more than 10 minutes of your time and your responses will be anonymous. **The survey will close on June 27, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. PDT.**

Professional Development

[50 State Afterschool Network Re-Boot Camp: Week 3 Kicks Off!](#)

Are you looking for training for your summer staff? As we continue to navigate through the impact of the pandemic, many programs will be offering face-to-face camps and activities this summer. The [50 State Afterschool Network Re-Boot Camp](#) is a FREE program of summer virtual trainings. They will be broken into thematic weeks with at least five pre-recorded (asynchronous) sessions per week:

Week 3 (June 14 - June 18): Partnerships for Impactful Learning Recovery

Week 4 (June 21 - June 25): Connecting with Families and the Community

[Annie E. Casey Foundation: Nominations and Application Open for the Casey Children and Family Fellowship](#)

[The Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) is soliciting nominations and applications for its Children and Family Fellowship opportunity. This Fellowship is a leadership program designed to give more child- and family-serving professionals the confidence and competence they need to lead major system reforms and community change initiatives that get equitable results. **This Fellowship will begin in April 2022 and end in January 2024. Nominations for the program must be submitted no later than August 20, 2021. Nominees will then be invited to complete a [full application online](#), which must be submitted by September 10, 2021. Candidates also are welcome to apply directly by the September 10, 2021, deadline without being nominated.**

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[City of Chicago's Mayor's Office: Youth Commission 2020 to 2021](#)

The City of Chicago's Mayor's Office is soliciting applications from youth ages 14 to 19 for its Youth Commission. Members will represent Chicago's youth and work with Mayor Lightfoot and her staff to foster youth-driven civic engagement and projects that positively impact young people across the city. There are four working groups: Public Safety, Education, Public Health, and Neighborhood Development. **There are informational sessions about this Commission on June 19, 2021, at [11:00 a.m.](#) and [3:00 p.m.](#) Applications are due [June 26, 2021, at 11:59 p.m.](#) [Apply Today!](#)**

[Loft Teen Arts Project: Visual Arts Commission for Chicago Youth](#)

[The Loft Teen Arts Project \(LTAP\)](#) is soliciting original pieces of artwork from youth groups and individuals in the City of Chicago for Steppenwolf Theatre's new dedicated Arts and Education Center, The Loft. The theme for artwork is "The Future I See: Creating for Community." **Winning entries will be displayed for one year at Steppenwolf, receive a \$1,500 cash prize (\$2,500 for group submissions) and receive a stipend for supplies and materials. Youth submissions will be accepted until [July 1, 2021.](#)**

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!

[Unsubscribe](#)

FOLLOW US

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

One North Dearborn, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60602 | Tel: [312.877.0725](tel:312.877.0725)

ACT Now Coalition © 2021 All rights reserved.

[Donate](#) | [Visit our website](#)

