

ACT NOW



NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Updates

[Illinois State Board of Education: June Board Meeting Recap](#)

On **June 16, 2021**, the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) met for its monthly meeting. Public comment included parents opposing mask mandates, superintendents asking for greater clarity on reopening guidelines, and advocates discussing state assessments. The Board heard a presentation on progress regarding its strategic plan. The Board discussed [proposed regulations for its After School Programs funding line](#), which it will vote on in August. The Board also approved its plan for [high impact tutoring](#) using ESSER funds. The Board will meet again **August 18, 2021**.

[Chicago Public Schools: "Moving Forward Together" Strategic Plan Released](#)

[Chicago Public Schools \(CPS\)](#) recently released its Moving Forward Together Strategic Plan to the public which will invest \$525 million over FY22 and FY23 to support students' social-emotional needs, accelerate student learning, and prepare youth for life after the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately \$267 million will be allocated to Moving Forward Together initiatives as part of CPS' upcoming budget for the 2021-22 school year, which will be released this summer. In January 2022, CPS aims to engage community members and relevant stakeholders to assess the impact of these resources. There are three overarching themes to the initiative that all have funding related to afterschool and out-of-school time (OST):

- **Flexible School Funds (\$165 million over two school years; \$47 million in FY22):** For OST programming in particular, **CPS will invest more than \$21 million to ensure all schools can offer afterschool and summer programming and each school has a dedicated Out of School Time coordinator.**

- **Priority Resources (\$165 million over two school years; \$93 million in FY22):** With regard to social-emotional healing-centered resources for students, **CPS is allocating \$16 million in FY22 to ensure all schools have their own behavioral and mental health teams.** Utilizing this funding, CPS will also institute a new [Healing-Centered Framework](#) and **expand mental health services through community partnerships.**
- **Targeted Student Supports (\$201 million over two school years; \$106 million in FY22):** To bolster **Mentorship and Mental Health Supports** for youth, **CPS is allocating \$12 million in FY22 to support highly qualified mentorship and mental health providers.** Relating to **Summer Learning Programs**, CPS will invest \$8 million in FY22 to **enhance summer learning programs like Summer Bridge and Expanded Credit Recovery.** Finally, CPS will invest \$25 million in FY22 to **hire and train 850 literacy tutors in grades K through 5 and math tutors in grades 6 through 12** at schools with students who most need support.

[Governor JB Pritzker's Office: Legislation Signed to Ensure Juneteenth Becomes a State Holiday](#)

On **June 16, 2021**, Governor JB Pritzker signed legislation declaring June 19, Juneteenth, an official state holiday. To commemorate the abolition of slavery throughout the United States and its territories in 1865, Juneteenth will be recognized as National Freedom Day in Illinois. This legislation was elevated by the Black Caucus is another historic step in striving toward equity and justice across Illinois. The bill will go into effect **January 1, 2022.**

[Illinois Department of Public Health: Updated Guidance on Youth Camps](#)

Earlier in the month, the [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#) shared that the State of Illinois will adopt the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance for operating youth camps. The guidance highlights the importance of educating families on the COVID-19 vaccine and encouraging them to vaccinate their youth ages 12 and older. The document also hosts information relating to social-distancing, masks, and protocols for overnight camps.

[Illinois State Board of Education: U.S. Department of Education Fiscal Waivers to School Districts Approved](#)

On **June 9, 2021**, the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) received approval from the U.S. Department of Education to grant fiscal waivers to local education agencies (LEAs) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **The waivers also apply to 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grants and allow for school districts and programs to roll over their funding. ISBE will reach out to grantees with more information on how to access unexpended funds.** Please submit any questions to illinoiscares@ISBE.net.

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	ACT Now	Final 21st Century Town Hall	June 28, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois State Board of Education	Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) 2021 Summer Symposium	July 20, 2021, to July 22, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment	Supporting and Promoting Mental Health in Out-of-School Time	June 30, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.	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	TODAY from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.	REGISTER
	Chalkbeat	In Their Voices: Students Speak with Secretary Cardona	TODAY at 6:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[ACT Now: Summer 2021 Learning Toolkit](#)

National Summer Learning Week is hosted annually by the [National Summer Learning Association \(NSLA\)](#) and brings awareness to providing youth and families across the United States with safe, high-quality, engaging, and healthy summer learning opportunities. We are celebrating all summer enrichment programs starting **July 12-16, 2021**, and highlighting your successes and strengths! To help you spread awareness and share more about your programming, we have created a Summer 2021 Learning Toolkit (image hosts a clickable link). **DON'T FORGET:** Tell Your Legislators **THANK YOU** for Supporting Summer Learning!

Want to be spotlighted as a Super Summer Learning Provider on our social media platforms during National Summer Learning Week?

Please send your submissions (photo of a staff member or colleague, 1-2 sentences on why he/she/they are stupendous, and 2-3 sentences on the summer programming being facilitated) to Emma Spencer (Youth Development Associate) at: spencere@actnowillinois.org.



Youth

Development

[EducationWeek Article: Starting School After the Pandemic: Youngest Students Will Need Foundational Skills](#)

Experts across the nation have noted that due to the pandemic, there was a decrease in enrollment of youth in transition years, such as early learners. [EducationWeek](#) released an article emphasizing some of the skills summer and afterschool providers could reinforce right now in order to support younger students renew learning before Fall 2021.

Family and Community Partnerships

[Child Tax Credit Awareness Resources for Program Providers and Families](#)

Child Tax Credit Awareness Day was this **past Monday (June 21, 2021)**. It provides \$3,000 per child ages 6 to 17 years old and \$3,600 per child under age 6. Families who filed taxes in the

last two years or who used the IRS “Non-Filer Portal” to get a stimulus check last year do not need to do anything. The IRS will automatically send them a monthly payment by direct deposit or check starting on **July 15, 2021**. Families that are not automatically enrolled, such as low-income families that have not made enough money to be required to file taxes, need to sign up at [ChildTaxCredit.gov](https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/efilehelp/child-tax-credit). There is a [flyer in English](#) for families to utilize on social media platforms or print out and place in students’ backpacks or grab-and-go meals. There is also a [Spanish-language guide](#) for families more comfortable with Spanish.

[National Geographic Article: Navigating COVID-19 Loss and Death with Your Child](#)

[National Geographic](#) has released an article for families and program providers to utilize in discussing COVID-19 and the loss of loved ones and friends with children. The article hosts trauma-informed strategies for supporting youth through the grief period and for those that are navigating difficult situations.

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 still accepting applications for two new full-time positions. Eligible candidates must have a dedicated interest in youth development and the ability to start during 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.**

Northwestern Settlement: After School Group Worker Position Live!

[Northwestern Settlement](#) is soliciting applications for its part-time After School Group Worker position. For questions or concerns, please reach out to Martha Castillo (After School Coordinator) at: mcastillo@nush.org.

[Chicago Children's Choir: Data Manager Position Open!](#)

The [Chicago Children's Choir](#) is currently hiring to fill the position of Data Manager. Interested and qualified candidates should send a resume, cover letter and references to jobs@ccchoir.org, with the job title in the subject line.

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

We need your help to complete the fifth iteration of a brief survey! Your answers will 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. **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.**

Youth Development

[The Center for Science Teaching and Learning at Northern Arizona University: PLANETS Project Opportunity](#)

[The Center for Science Teaching and Learning at Northern Arizona University](#) is soliciting applications from out-of-school time providers for a focus group opportunity. The project surrounds PLANETS (Planetary Learning that Advances the Nexus of Engineering, Technology, and Science). PLANETS is a NASA funded Out-of-School program that provides free Science and Engineering curriculum and educator support resources for Out-of-School Time educators. **Applications are open now and focus groups will take place during the Summer of 2021.**

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[University of Chicago: Ci3 Hexacago Health Academy Opportunity for High School Youth](#)

[The University of Chicago's Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health \(Ci3\)](#) is soliciting applications from youth going into 11th and 12th grades

in Fall 2021 for its Hexacago Health Academy opportunity. **Participants will receive a \$450 stipend after completing the two-week virtual summer program and additional hourly stipends for booster opportunities during the fall.** There are two summer sessions:

- **July 19, 2021 to July 30, 2021**
- **August 2, 2021 to August 13, 2021**

For questions or concerns, please email: ci3games@bsd.uchicago.edu or text (708) 808-0850.

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[Illinois State Board of Education: Jump Start Kindergarten and First Grade for School Districts](#)

On **June 15, 2021**, the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) released a Notice of Intent for a new funding opportunity for summer and afterschool programming. ISBE plans to fund to Tier I and Tier II districts that operate locally funded preschool programs so that they can institute Jump Start Kindergarten and First Grade Summer and/or After School Programs during the 2021-22 school year. **Please NOTE: The Notice of Intent deadline has passed however the formal Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will be released to school districts and the public shortly. We will provide an update for our membership once the NOFO is live!**

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

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

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