

ACT NOW!

NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[FY22 Appropriations Update](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has reported that in **late July**, the U.S. House of Representatives Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (LHHS-ED) and Related Agencies bill passed, including a **\$100 million proposed increase to the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) line**. It also included a **\$413 million increase for Full-Service Community Schools for a total of \$443 million**. However, in the U.S. Senate, no FY 2022 spending bills have passed yet. Finally, on **August 10, 2021**, the U.S. Senate also passed the bipartisan [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\)](#). IIJA aims to invest approximately **\$1 trillion (roughly \$550 billion in new spending) in traditional infrastructure**. With regard to education, the bipartisan infrastructure bill includes a total of **\$65 billion for broadband investment to help families access the internet and afford devices**, and more.

State Updates

[Indoor Mask Mandate for All Individuals in Chicago Regardless of Vaccination Status](#)

On **August 17, 2021**, the [Chicago Department of Public Health](#) announced that the agency will **re-instate the face mask mandate for all indoor public settings as the average number of new daily cases of COVID-19 in Chicago surpasses 400**. All individuals aged 2 and over, regardless of their vaccination status, will be required to wear a mask as of **Friday, August 20, 2021**, while indoors in public settings.

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	Teen REACH Quarterly Meeting #1	August 24, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Teen REACH Quality Standards Training 101	August 25, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Creating Afterschool and Partnerships to Support Students Learning	August 26, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Membership Engagement Exchange: Creative Creatures: Using Improvisation (Improv) to Increase Student Engagement	September 8, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
Youth Development	Afterschool Alliance	Twitter Chat: America After 3PM STEM Report	August 26, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.	TWITTER - Follow ACT Now
	National AfterSchool Association	Building Back Stronger: Using SEL Resources to Enrich Your OST Program	August 26, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.	REGISTER
	Girls Who Code	Girls Who Code Clubs Q&A Webinar	August 26, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[ACT Now Webinar: Creating Afterschool and Partnerships to Support Students Learning](#)

The [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) recently announced that it will be awarding ESSER III afterschool and summer learning funding DIRECTLY to school districts. To review ISBE's ESSER III allocations, click [here](#). In response, along with the [Illinois Principals Association](#) we are hosting a second webinar for school administrators in order to encourage collaboration between schools and community-based organizations for afterschool and summer learning opportunities. Join us [August 26, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.](#), to hear from school districts that have plans

to operate programming in conjunction with out-of-school time providers, and MORE! **INVITE your local school partners to participate in these webinars by using** our flyer [HERE!](#) If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Susan Stanton (Network Lead) at stantons@actnowillinois.org.

[Compensation - The Problem and Solution for Afterschool's Staffing Challenges](#)

[The National AfterSchool Association](#) developed a brief and blog post elevating the issue of staffing in the out-of-school time field and its relation to compensation. The brief provides strategies and guidance as to how to support afterschool professionals!

[The Intersection of Anti-Black Racism and Adolescent Development](#)

[The National Scientific Council on Adolescence \(NSCA\)](#) released its first report on the Intersection of Anti-Black Racism and Adolescent Development. This piece elevates research on how racism and related inequities impact key developmental stages of adolescence. The report also offers recommendations to support Black youth during middle and high school years, and strategies for supporting health youth development in the context of programming and community.

Youth Development

[America After 3PM STEM Special Report](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) recently released a special report on the state of afterschool STEM programming. The report highlights how programs that facilitate STEM experiences typically serve underrepresented students in the STEM sectors, decreasing barriers to college and career exploration for youth of color. There is also Illinois-specific data that indicates families recognize the importance of STEM learning opportunities.

[Navigating Social and Emotional Learning from the Inside Out](#)

[The Harvard Graduate School of Education](#) and the [Wallace Foundation](#) have developed an updated and expanded guide to evidence-based SEL programs for programs to review. This resource offers detailed information on 33 pre-K through elementary school programs, encompassing curricular content and program highlights, and strategies for electing the best SEL programming for the youth and communities your afterschool program serves.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Supporting Grieving Students: Advice From Parents and Counselors](#)

[EducationWeek](#) has published an article and video series on how to support grieving students. The resources share advice and strategies from families and families as communities continue to process the loss of loved ones during the pandemic.

Community and Family Partnerships

[Early Learning Newsletter](#)

The [Early Learning Project](#) is funded by the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) and is a resource filled with evidence-based, reliable information on early care and education for parents, caregivers, and teachers of young children in Illinois. ISBE will be sending out monthly newsletters with resources! *The newsletter is now also available in Spanish by clicking on the "Spanish-español" link in the upper right-hand corner of the page.*

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[Director of Development Opportunity](#)

Our friends at the [Galesburg Community Foundation](#) are soliciting applications for the position of Director of Development. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled!

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

Youth Opportunities

Administration

[ACT Now UPDATE: Policy and Communications Internship for Fall 2021](#)

We are seeking applicants for our remote Policy and Communications Internship for Fall 2021. As our intern, you will have the opportunity to assist in ACT Now's federal and state policy initiatives and communications work. Applicants should have excellent communications skills, a strong work ethic, and a background in government relations, public policy, or social work. Applicants must have also completed at least their sophomore year in their undergraduate institution and be able to work *part time* at ACT Now. **We are providing a stipend to reflect the remote aspect of the internship.** Applications are due to Emma Spencer at SpencerE@actnowillinois.org by **Monday, September 6, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. CDT.**

[Illinois High School 2 Career](#)

The [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#), [Illinois Department of Employment Security \(IDES\)](#), and [Illinois Student Assistance Commission \(ISAC\)](#) have developed a website for high school youth to utilize in planning for careers. The tool allows students to review information and access youth programming in order to encourage and support young Illinoisans achieve higher education and secure employment 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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