

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Updates

[Governor JB Pritzker Extends COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement Deadline for Educators](#)

On **Friday, September 3, 2021**, Governor JB Pritzker extended the educator COVID-19 vaccination and testing requirements to allow schools more time to put testing and accountability measures in place. **The first dose or testing deadline is now September 19, 2021.** The [Executive Order](#) defines "School Personnel" as: any person who **(1)** is employed by, volunteers for, or is contracted to provide services for a School or school district serving students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, or who is employed by an entity that is contracted to provide services to a School, school district, or students of a School, **and (2)** is in close contact (fewer than 6 feet) with other persons in the School for more than 15 minutes at least once a week on a regular basis as determined by the School.

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 | Membership Engagement Exchange: Creative Creatures: Using Improvisation (Improv) to Increase Student Engagement | TODAY , from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. | REGISTER |
| | National Council for Mental Wellbeing | Diversify Your Revenue with Fundraising and Philanthropic Support | TODAY , at 11:00 a.m. | REGISTER |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Forefront | Intro to Digital Giving | September 14, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | REGISTER |
| | ACT Now | Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment (IL-QPSA) Sneak Peek Webinar | September 16, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. | REGISTER |
| | ACT Now | Q1 Community Schools DOWNSTATE Training: Different Structures for Community Schools | September 22, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. | REGISTER |
| | ACT Now | The Return of the Kids: Reconnecting, Re-engaging and Re-introducing Students to STEM In-Person | September 23, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. | REGISTER |
| | Forefront | Evaluating and Building On Past Digital Giving Experiences | October 7, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | REGISTER |
| Youth Development | National Girls Collaborative Project | TECHNOLOchicas: Transforming the T in STEM | October 5, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. | REGISTER |
| | 2021 Women of Color STEM Digital Conference | Women of Color STEM Digital Conference | October 7, 2021, to October 9, 2021 | REGISTER |
| | National Girls Collaborative Project | Brite 2021: Sharing Strategies and Learnings from an Online Summer STEM Program for Girls | October 19, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. | REGISTER |
| Family and Community Partnerships | Protecting Immigrant Families Illinois | The Biden Public Charge Rule! It's a Go! Next Steps and How to Engage! | September 10, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. | REGISTER |

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Afterschool Alliance Staffing Toolkit for Program Providers](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has released a Fall 2021 staff recruitment toolkit that hosts a collection of materials designed to help program providers recruit and hire new staff. Resources include outreach strategies, messages, and easy-to-tailor flyers and graphics!

Youth Development

[Stories that Shape Us: YOLANDA DUCKWORTH](#)

Our great friend, **Yolanda Duckworth**, was featured in a National AfterSchool Association spotlight! Yolanda shares why afterschool means so much to her. Read all about how this Site Coordinator for Project Success of Vermilion County (Project Success Teen REACH at Danville High School) is changing the lives of youth in Danville, Illinois!

Community and Family Partnerships

[National Hispanic Heritage Month](#)

In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month (**September 15, 2021 to October 15, 2021**), here are some resources that serve to promote Latinx students in STEM:

- [Latinas in STEM](#): Spreads awareness about STEM and encourages middle and high school Latinas, especially within underserved communities, to consider pursuing a STEM career.
- [TECHNOLOchicas](#): Designed to raise awareness among young Latinas and their families about opportunities and careers in technology.
- [Space Place by NASA \(in Spanish\)](#): It's mission is to inspire and enrich upper-elementary-aged kids' learning of space and Earth science online through games, hands-on activities, informative articles, and videos. Includes resources for parents and teachers.

[Community Schools July 2021 Brief Released!](#)

[The Coalition for Community Schools](#) has published a brief highlighting how Community Schools providers have continued to effectively respond to the public health crisis. There are strategies for making the case for this framework and spotlights of strong community schools programming. **Our partners in West Chicago and Skokie, Illinois have been featured in this updated document!**

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Mental Health Services and Resources for City of Chicago Residents](#)

Un[*]spoken is the City of Chicago's first-ever mental health awareness campaign which seeks to improve awareness of and connection to publicly funded mental health services available to all residents.

[Strategies for Safe Sports-based Afterschool Programming](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has launched an initiative with [Coaching Corps](#) in order to help afterschool programs facilitate sports-based activities. Resources include free tools and coaching tips based on youth development principles, and guidelines for operating safely and supporting social-emotional well-

being. Your program can also [sign up and become a partner to gain access to Coaches Corner](#) for ongoing support.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[Metropolitan Family Services: Evaluation Manager Opportunity](#)

Our friends at [Metropolitan Family Services \(MFS\)](#) are soliciting applications for four Evaluation Manager positions:

- **Empowerment Evaluation Manager** is responsible for internal program evaluation activities related to Metropolitan's empowerment programs, which includes: Domestic Violence and Legal Aid Society programs.
- **Economic Stability Evaluation Manager** is responsible for internal program evaluation activities related to Metropolitan's Economic Stability programs, which include: Workforce Development and Financial Literacy programs.
- **Education Evaluation Manager** is responsible for internal program evaluation activities related to Metropolitan's education programs, which include: Community Schools, Early Head Start/Head Start, and school based programs.
- **Emotional Wellness Evaluation Manager** is responsible for internal program evaluation activities related to Metropolitan's Behavioral Health programs, which include: adult and child counseling and crisis intervention.

Youth Development

[Girls Who Code Clubs and Back-to-School Week Prizes!](#)

[Girls Who Code](#) will begin accepting application for its Clubs on **September 13, 2021**. Providers will have a chance to access over 120 hours of free coding curricula and win prizes (gift cards, STEM kits, and more). Questions on Girls Who Code Clubs? Join their [Community Partner Webinar](#) on **September 27, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.**

[STEM Career Pathways Study](#)

[The National Girls Collaborative Project](#), the [American Association of Physics Teachers](#), [Destination Imagination](#), [Hispanic Heritage Foundation](#), [National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity](#), and the [Student Research Foundation](#) are facilitating a research project focused on high school students' perceptions of STEM careers. Including your students as part of this research project can help them: further consider their strengths, interests, and career options; receive information from colleges/universities, career and technical schools, and gain access to post-secondary scholarship opportunities. Watch your inbox during the back-to-school season for a potential package from the National College & Career Pathways Study!

Professional Development

[Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Grant Training](#)

[The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority \(ICJIA\)](#) is hosting a training for those interested in securing state grant funding. This course will ease the application process for organizations looking to access ICJIA grants. Participants will receive an overview of the ICJIA grant process, how to set up a budget and complete a program narrative, and what it means to comply with the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA).

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[SciYouth of America Team Application](#)

[SciYouth of America](#) is dedicated to offering youth opportunities to discover the front lines of STEM, through exposure to diverse fields, real-world science experiences, and research opportunities. The SciYouth team is seeking high school-aged students to join their team, an opportunity to mentor middle-school-aged youth, and plan events featuring STEM professionals. Youth will build leadership skills, while also interacting with STEM role models!

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[New Chicago Public Schools Out of School Time and Student Wellness Vendor Opportunity](#)

[The CPS Offices of Out of School Time and Student Health and Wellness](#) are soliciting applications for its new opportunity for current and prospective Chicago Public Schools (CPS) partners. This opportunity is for organizations who wish to provide Out of School Time and Health & Wellness services to CPS students. This solicitation is for partners who plan to provide these services at a cost exceeding \$10,000 per school. Program categories include:

- Enrichment - Academic Acceleration, Arts, College & Career
- Academic Support, Intervention, and Tutoring
- Mentoring

- Development and Implementation for 9th and 12th grade
- Sexual Health Education
- Nutrition Education
- School Gardens Education
- Physical Activity
- Recess
- Professional Development

All submissions must be uploaded, submitted, and finalized prior to the Closing Time of September 24, 2021 at 2:00 PM CDT. Firms requiring additional assistance shall only contact Cristina Gonzalez at cgonzalez234@cps.edu.

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

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