RESOURCES GUIDE

A statewide coalition that advocates for quality and affordable afterschool programs and community schools

Just Getting Started?

ACT Now has created a variety of useful guides and tools. Click on the images and links to explore and discover more about all the ways ACT Now can help you and your programs.

QUALITY STANDARDS

We developed statewide Quality Standards that capture practices that have been demonstrated, through research, to lead to quality programs and positive outcomes for children.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Grow and advance your program and workforce with our data and research driven Professional Development (PD) tools.

STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) are part of the fastest growing segment of the workforce. In order to ensure economic growth, to innovate, and to improve, we need to create equitable STEM opportunities for all youth.

The Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment

An easy-to-use tool that allows providers the opportunity to assess their program’s performance based on the Illinois Quality Standards. Providers can:
• Receive free one-on-one technical assistance
• Capture and analyze data
• Automate survey across program sites
Register for IL-QPSA here.

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Community Schools

Community Schools (CS) are public schools that partner with community-based organizations to offer a range of supports and opportunities to children, youth, families, and communities. While each CS is unique, they all share four key tenets:
(1) Extended Learning (2) Integrated Family Supports (3) Family and Community Engagement (4) Shared Leadership

We work with stakeholders to develop and pursue a shared policy agenda to increase the quality and availability of afterschool programs. Use these resources to help us advocate!