

ACT NOW!

NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

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	December Membership Exchange: COVID-19 Vaccine Education Efforts	December 16, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	ACT Now	Community Schools CHICAGO Training: Bullying and Resolving Student Conflicts through Restorative Justice	December 1, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Community Schools SUBURBS Training: Advisory Boards	December 8, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	Governor's Office of Early Childhood	GOECD Briefing: COVID-19 Data in Child Care Settings,	December 9, 2021, from	REGISTER

	Development (GOECD)	Vaccine Education, and Policies	12:30 p.m. to 1:00 pm.	
Family and Community Partnerships	Discovery Partners Institute	Computer Science Opportunity Fair for Youth AND Families in Chicagoland (In-Person Event)	December 11, 2021, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Guide on Core Knowledge and Competencies for Out-of-School Time Professionals](#)

[The National AfterSchool Association \(NAA\)](#) has published a guide highlighting some of the core competencies and skills for the afterschool field. Some of these focus on ensuring an inclusive and anti-racist program setting for both youth and providers to thrive.

Family and Community Partnerships

[Toolkit for Fostering Conversations about Race and Civil Disobedience](#)

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot and faith and community leaders have called for peace and unity with the recent verdict in the murder trial of the three Georgia men charged in Ahmaud Arbery's killing. The verdict may be emotional and a lot to process, especially for young people. Chicago Public Schools (CPS) has developed the "Say Their Names" toolkit to guide productive conversations about race and civil disobedience with youth.

Youth Development

[Winter Activities for Youth and Families](#)

[ShareMyLesson](#) has compiled a variety of resources for providers, families, and youth to do throughout the winter season. These activities highlight the diverse meaning of the holiday season and cover world cultures and traditions. Ultimately, the resources encourage students to think about traditions in their respective communities and families.

[Million Girls Moonshot STEM Resources for December](#)

December is always a special time of year. A chance to reflect on our successes and explore how we might do more as we head into a new year. That is why this December, Million Girls Moonshot (MGM) resources will focus on activating an engineering mindset to solve real-

work and relevant challenges. Computer Science Week (December 6-11) is an opportunity to explore a new discipline that helps cultivate an engineering mindset. [Check out the MGM Archive for the FULL list of activities for December!](#)

Webinars, Recordings, and Quality Trainings

- [Celebrate Computer Science Education Week with the IF/THEN Collection: December 7, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.](#)
- [Recording: Innovative Strategies from the Field: Leveraging the IF/THEN Collection](#)
- [Afterschool Coaching for Reflective Educators in STEM \(ACRES\) - January Cohort: Asking Purposeful Questions. Sessions begin on January 19, 2022 and continue into March 2022. Sessions take place between 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.](#)

Toolkits and Resources

- **Article:** [Infrastructures to Support Equitable STEM Learning Across Settings](#) —Learn about design principles to support equitable learning across settings, especially opportunities that occur in out-of-school time.
- **Website:** [You For Youth // Computer Science for All](#) — Computer Not Required — This 21CCLC resource covers it all—activities, curricula, fact sheets. There’s information for providers, parents, and families.
- **Activity Toolkit:** [STEM Educators Academy Activity Toolkit from Expanded Schools](#) — This Activity Toolkit offers hybrid learning engineering design challenges, STEM facilitation skill builder videos, and engineering design activities categorized by content areas.
- **Article:** [‘I’m not just a mom’: Parents as creators, collaborators, and learners in creative computing by Ricarose Roque](#) - Social support from parents can play an important role in engaging and sustaining young people’s participation in computing. The authors identified many supportive roles for parents, including collaborating with their children on projects, providing resources and finding new opportunities.
- **Article:** [10X: Using Technology to Engage Families](#) — From gathering information to modeling appropriate tech use to emphasizing the importance of conversation with children, learn 10 tips on using technology to engage families.

Role Models and Celebrating Computer Science Week Resources

The below assets can be used in your programs as you celebrate **Computer Science Education for All (December 6-12, 2021)**

- [Sarah Wilson Educator Guide](#)
- [Sarah Wilson Activity Sheet](#)
- [Get in the Game Educator Guide](#)
- [Get in the Game Activity Sheet](#)
- [This Is What A Scientist Looks Like poster](#)
- [CS Ed Week Challenge](#): During this challenge, participants will have the opportunity to learn about tech and different fields, and earn prizes- including gift cards and video messages from their favorite idols.

Youth Activities

- **Student Design Activity:** [Straw Towers to the Moon](#) - Let your kids’ imaginations run wild. Build the biggest tower, or the best balanced, or the most attractive...change the criteria to change the design. Grades K-8.

- **Student Activity:** [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.

[Equitable Social-Emotional Learning Practices](#)

[eSchool News](#) has published an article highlight five principles for ensuring equity in a program's social-emotional learning (SEL) initiatives.

[Ensuring Youth Voice and Choice in Programming](#)

[eSchool News](#) compiled four strategies for incorporating youth voice and choice in programming, whether related to social-emotional learning (SEL) or STEM.

[STEAM-Centered Programming Supports Youth Learning](#)

[eSchool News](#) has released a resource for afterschool providers and educators looking for ways to integrate STEAM activities into programming. The article elevates the importance of centering STEAM in activities to support educational outcomes.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Youth Development

[Engage Students in Local Nature During Out-Of-School Time!](#)

[The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum \(PNNM\)](#) has a new Science Enrichment Series that engages students in critical thinking about local nature phenomena even when they're not in the classroom! The resources are geared towards grades 1 through 8.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[36th National Child Nutrition Conference](#)

[The National Child and Adult Care Food Program Sponsors Association](#) is offering scholarships to attend the 36th National Child Nutrition Conference, which is taking place **between April 18, 2022, and April 22, 2022**, in New Orleans. Individuals operating Child and Adult Care Food Programs or Summer Food Service Programs are eligible to apply. There will be 15 awards available. **The deadline for the scholarship application is January 10, 2022.**

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

Youth Opportunities

Administration

[ACT Now Policy and Communications Internship for Spring 2022](#)

We are seeking applicants for our **in-person** Policy and Communications Internship for **Spring 2022**. 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, and in-person, at ACT Now. We are providing a stipend reflective of the intern's experience.** Please review the entire application package thoroughly. **Applications are due to Emma Spencer at SpencerE@actnowillinois.org by Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. CDT.**

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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Call for Resources

Do you have valuable resources, stories, or best practices to share with the afterschool field?

Please [click here](#) to share your resources with ACT Now and we will disseminate them (via our newsletter and website) to other providers across the state!

If you have any questions, please contact Emma Spencer (Youth Development Associate) at Spencere@actnowillinois.org

NOTE: We sort our trainings and resources by the Core Areas in the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards to promote better understanding and implementation of the Standards. **Blue headings denote a Core Area.** To learn more about the Quality Standards, click [here](#).

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