

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Updates

[School Districts Will Determine Whether Students and Staff Have Mask Mandate](#)

On **February 18, 2022**, the Illinois Appellate Court upheld a circuit court decision to stop emergency public health orders that mandated masking and teacher vaccinations in schools. This appellate court ruling, however, allows districts to establish their own rules by saying “in no way restrains school districts from acting independently from the executive orders or the (Illinois Department of Public Health) in creating provisions addressing COVID-19.” Therefore, school districts have the ability to uphold Governor JB Pritzker's Executive Orders.

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

On **February 17, 2022**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) met for its monthly meeting. You can find the Board materials [here](#). The Board heard public comment on masking polices and the Right to Read Act. ISBE staff provided a presentation on Career and Technical Education (CTE) with student participation. The Superintendent also gave an update on ISBE's equity work with a particular focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Within this discussion, 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) was highlighted by the state agency as an effective SEL strategy! **ISBE Board members then requested approval for the [development of the FY23 21st CCLC Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#)**. The initial term of the grant will begin July 1, 2022, and extend through June 30, 2025, or August 31, 2025. This grant will be for three years instead of five years as it has been traditionally. The estimated total cost, including renewal, will not exceed \$30 million over these three years. The RFP will be sent to Governor JB Pritzker before ISBE releases it.

For a list of previously listed policy updates, click [here](#).

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
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Professional Development	ACT Now	Community Schools DOWNSTATE Training: Advisory Boards		Recording
	ACT Now and the Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY)	Capacity-Building Kick-Off Event for Youth Development Programs in Illinois		Recording Password: =S74aut!
	ACT Now	February Membership Exchange: Funding Opportunities		Recording Password: *IB3399A
	Protecting Immigrant Families - Illinois	Best Practices for Engaging Immigrant Families	February 22, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois Department of Human Services	Technical Assistance Session: RPSA Youth Development Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)	February 24, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois Resource Center	2022 ESSA/Multilingual Illinois Conference *ACT Now will be presenting on Family Engagement	February 22, 2022, to February 25, 2022	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Community Schools CHICAGO Training: Creating a Culture of Support and Supporting Staff	February 23, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois 60 by 25 Network	2022 Annual Conference: Equity First: Building Toward a Better Future and Revitalizing Learning	February 28, 2022, to March 3, 2022	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Grant Writing Series!	March 1, 2022, to March 4, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER

Illinois Department of Human Services	Technical Assistance Session: RPSA Youth Development Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)	March 8, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER
ACT Now	Community Schools SUBURBS Training: Creating a Culture of Support and Supporting Staff	March 16, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Illinois AfterSchool Network	36th Annual Spring Virtual Conference	March 30, 2022, to April 1, 2022	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[New Report Highlighting the Importance of Child Care in Illinois](#)

Our partner, [Mission: Readiness, Illinois](#), has released a report highlighting its membership's support for high-quality child care, its impact on children's lives, and ultimately the United States' national security. It notes how the Military Child Care System is a strong example of providing high-quality care in an equitable way, and a demonstration of the value that our armed forces put on child care.

Youth Development

[Resources for Teaching About 'Hard History'](#)

[ShareMyLesson](#) has compiled resources for educators and providers to use in programming in order to address and teach about slavery in the United States. The 1619 Project's lesson plans and accredited national organization's resources are available in this online list.

[The TEACH Act – Public Act 201-0044](#)

The Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History (TEAACH) Act amends the Illinois School Code to ensure that students in every public elementary and high school in Illinois learn about the contributions of Asian Americans to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of the United States. [The Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) created a [one-page document](#) and [supplemental educational resources](#) to assist educators in providing instruction on Asian American history.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Youth Development

[RISE Challenge IL for STEM Afterschool Programs](#)

[The Environmental Education Association of Illinois](#) hosts RISE Challenge IL for upper elementary and middle school students that engages youth in hands-on issue investigation and environmental action project planning around the topic of natural hazards. Students will engage in project-based learning, learn STEM concepts, participate in democratic decision making processes and learn how to use their voice to speak to power. These are the exact types of learning experiences that students are craving and create lasting impacts on their level of civic efficacy as adults. While the information session took place yesterday, Monday, February 22, 2022, you can still learn more [here!](#)

Professional Development

[NEW ACT Now Grant Writing Series Starts Soon!](#)

Join ACT Now for our Grant Writing Webinar Series the **week of February 28th! Starting March 1, 2022**, ACT Now will host one webinar a day dedicated to a specific grant writing topic to get the field ready for upcoming funding opportunities. Attendees can expect to leave this series having a well-rounded knowledge of grant writing, an ability to assess organizational and individual capacity, and tools to write a successful grant application. Updates on various funding opportunities will also be discussed. See the times, topics, and registration links for each webinar below!

- **Tuesday, March 1, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** - Unpacking a NOFO and Needs Assessments
- **Wednesday, March 2, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** - Program Model and Design
- **Thursday, March 3, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** - Goals & Objectives and Evaluation Methods
- **Friday, March 4, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** - Budget and Budget Narrative

For questions and concerns, please contact **Nikki Gillani** (Afterschool Resources & Support Specialist - School Partnerships) at GillaniN@actnowillinois.org.

Family and Community Partnership

Parent Nation: Parent Village Information Sessions

[Parent Nation](#) is hosting a variety of Parent Village Information Sessions to highlight resources available for families and caregivers so that all children can thrive. There are "in-person" and "virtual" villages. Please see the following opportunities

In-Person Villages

- [February 28, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. CST](#) - ENGLISH
- [March 7, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. CST](#) - SPANISH

Virtual Villages

- [March 10, 2022, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. CST](#) - ENGLISH
- [March 14, 2022, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST](#) - SPANISH

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership Plan and Webinars

The [Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership \(ICMHP\)](#) is developing a [children's mental health plan](#) and soliciting feedback from diverse stakeholders. The partnership is hosting three webinar opportunities for interested participants to learn more about this plan and resource:

- [Wednesday, February 23, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.](#)
- [Thursday, February 24, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.](#)
- [Friday, February 25, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.](#)

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

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

We are seeking applicants for our Policy and Communications Internship for Summer 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 **full-time** at ACT Now. We hope to offer an in-person internship this summer if it is safe to do so. However, ACT Now will

consider a remote internship opportunity. We are also providing a stipend for this internship. **Applications are due Monday, April 4, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. CST.** Please ensure to specify what format of internship you are applying for. Please send all materials with the subject "ACT Now Policy and Communications Summer 2022 Internship" to: Spencere@actnowillinois.org.

Girls Who Code Opportunities for ACT Now Affiliated Youth and Providers!

[Join Girls Who Code](#) and to learn to code and change the world! As a Girls Who Code Community Partner, ACT Now is thrilled to let you know that your application will receive priority consideration when you apply!

- The 2-week, introductory **Summer Immersion Program (SIP)** hosts current 9th-11th grade students who identify as girls or non-binary in live virtual classrooms led by industry-leading companies like EA, Pfizer, and ViacomCBS. Students learn to make an impact with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript while getting an inside look into the tech industry. Plus, all SIP students can apply for grants up to \$500 for financial support.
- **The Self-Paced Program** offers independent study and real-world projects for current 9th-12th graders to earn beginner-level badges in HTML, CSS, and JavaScript for web development or an intermediate-level badge in Python for cybersecurity.

Both programs introduce you to inspiring role models in the tech industry. Participants will also get access to exclusive alumni benefits and career support for life, including our Hiring Summit, pre-internship programs, virtual mentoring, and GWC Talks webinars for career tips and strategies.

Programs are available June 17, 2022, to August 12, 2022. Learn more [on our FAQ](#) or by joining a [webinar](#), and [apply here](#)! **Regular-decision applications are due by March 18, 2022.** ACT Now to join a sisterhood that supports youth for life! Remember to select 'ACT Now Coalition' from the dropdown menu when asked about your Community Partner affiliation on the application. That's how your application will receive priority consideration!

Women in Tech Event for Youth!

Learn what it takes to be a woman in the Information Tech (IT) field with [Comp-U-Dopt's](#) Women in Tech event on **April 30, 2022**. This event is designed primarily for 6th-8th grade female students. During this event, attendees will be able to participate in technical workshops, be able to network and more! There will be free food, and a laptop for each participant.

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

Funding Opportunities

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Reimagine Public Safety Act Funding Application OPEN for Youth Development Programming](#)

On **February 16, 2022**, the [Illinois Department of Human Service's \(IDHS\) Office of Firearm Violence Prevention \(OFVP\)](#) released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for **youth development work within the 22 eligible communities in Chicago**. Two technical assistance sessions will be offered on **February 24, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.** and **March 8, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.** for potential grantees. While these sessions are not mandatory, they are highly encouraged. **Proposals are due March 21, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. CST.**

[Grant Opportunity for Community Safety Initiatives](#)

[The Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities'](#) 2022 Chicago Fund will award \$1,000 to \$10,000 grants to support 24 community-led efforts within the City of Chicago that make neighborhoods safer. **Applications are due March 11, 2022.**

Family and Community Partnerships

[Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events \(DCASE\) CityArts Grant Program](#)

The City of Chicago is offering \$6 million in #DCASEgrants for Chicago nonprofit arts organizations. The 2022 CityArts Program provides general operating support and project grants to arts organizations. **Application deadline is Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. CST.**

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

Were you forwarded this email?

[Click Here](#) to Subscribe to the ACT Now Newsletter!

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](#).

[Unsubscribe](#)