


ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER




**THE SCOPE OF AFTERSCHOOL
IN ILLINOIS**

ACT NOW SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS WEBINAR SERIES

AUGUST 31, 2022, FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.

CONTENT:

- Learn more about the out-of-school time (OST) field in Illinois
- Receive updates on Illinois' current use of federal COVID-19 Relief funding
- Connect with fellow school district colleagues
- Access resources from ACT Now!



New Webinar: The Scope of Afterschool in Illinois!

The first of **ACT Now's** six webinar School Partnerships series is kicking off at the end of the month! On **August 31, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, we will host an engaging conversation about the impact of afterschool and out-of-school-time (OST) programs across Illinois. Attendees will learn the reach of afterschool in the state, as well as the importance of afterschool/OST from the perspective of those served. Finally, attendees will receive updates on Illinois' current use of ARP/ESSER funding and how to leverage funding available in their district to continue to meet youth's needs during afterschool. This webinar is tailored to school districts and administrators. **[REGISTER HERE!](#)**

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

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[Updated COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Institutions and Child Care Programs](#)

On **August 11, 2022**, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) issued [updated guidance](#) for protecting youth and children as students return to educational settings. The following changes have been shared, and adopted, by the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) and the [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#):

- Keep students home if they are ill and to continue to test to confirm or rule out COVID-19 and other infections
- Provide remote learning opportunities for students that are isolating for COVID-19
- Promote being up to date with all vaccinations, including COVID-19 vaccinations
- Optimize ventilation systems
- Maintain good hygiene etiquette, and cleaning and disinfection procedures
- Encourage students and staff to wear a mask when managing cases and exposures, and responding to outbreaks

To learn more about the easing of COVID-19 quarantine and social-distancing guidelines for students, read the Chalkbeat Chicago article, [here](#).

[Funding for Sports-Based Youth Development Programming Proposed in Congress](#)

At the end of July 2022, the PLAYS for Youth Sports Act was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Representative Allred and Representative Schultz. This piece of legislation would establish a \$75 million grant program and provide opportunities for nonprofits and community-based organizations (CBOs) to foster healthy lifestyles in youth and facilitate youth development programming. This proposed annual grant would be administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [The Afterschool Alliance](#) continues to monitor this bills progress.

State Updates

[Free Shipments of Rapid COVID-19 Tests Available for Schools](#)

On **August 10, 2022**, the [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#) announced that the agency will be providing a one-time shipment of 1 million COVID-19 rapid antigen tests to K-12 public school districts outside of Chicago for the upcoming school year. The tests will be provided for free and school districts much submit a request on behalf of the community. Ultimately, the goal is to keep students safe as they continue their learning.

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
Professional Development	ACT Now	Addressing the Crisis in the Afterschool Workforce: A Conversation with Legislators and Afterschool Providers		Recording
	ACT Now	Narrative 4: Story Exchange Facilitator Training	<i>Not Applicable Right Now</i>	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Quality Standards Training (QST) 101	September 1, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Youth Development	Fermilab	Fermilab Summer Science Series: Interactive Virtual Lab Tour	August 21, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	Anti-Defamation League	Information Session on the Anti-Defamation League's No Place for Hate Initiative	TODAY , at 3:00 p.m. (Every Tuesday)	REGISTER
	Erikson Institute	Practical Ways to Support Children's Mental Health in the Wake of Gun Violence	August 18, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Strengthening Chicago's Youth	Keeping Youth Safe: Public Health Approaches to Ending Gun Violence	September 9, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	In-Person REGISTER
Family and Community Partnerships	The Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies	Illinois Cares for Kids & Ready4K Information Session	August 25, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. August 30, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Addressing the Afterschool Workforce Crisis](#)

On **August 10, 2022**, **ACT Now** hosted an event titled Crisis in the Afterschool Workforce: A Conversation with Legislators and Program Providers. During this event, we [highlighted survey data](#), collected during spring 2022 to highlight the exacerbated staff shortage and the importance of supporting out-of-school time (OST) professionals. We also shared recommendations and hosted a panel discussion in which **State Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas**, **Dana Kelly** (Illinois Department of Human Services), **Jeff Aranowski** (Illinois State Board of Education), **Teresa Dothard-Campbell** (Glenview Middle School Lights ON for Learning), **Maricela Bautista** (Brighton Park Neighborhood Council) and **Michael Holmes** (Black Community Provider Network) advocated for the increase in funding and other holistic services for those working in the OST field. Access the one-pager and the event recording here. **ACT Now** is excited to share that the event was covered by [Chalkbeat Chicago](#), [Fox 32 News](#), the [Chicago Tribune](#), and [WTAX!](#) (*Click the name of the media outlet to read the articles*)

[Resources to Support New Staff Onboarding](#)

[The National AfterSchool Association \(NAA\)](#) has shared an article with four ways to enhance orientation training for new staff. The goal of these strategies is to help community-based organizations (CBOs) recruit, retain, and support new staff.

Youth Development

[Lights On Afterschool 2022 Resources for Providers](#)

Lights On Afterschool is the annual celebration of the field and it is quickly approaching! Join **ACT Now** and the broader out-of-school time (OST) field on **October 20, 2022**, by planning an event to share all the important work your program is doing for youth and families! [The Afterschool Alliance](#) has created partner planning tools and more!

[Creating Student Engagement through the Power of Play](#)

[eSchool News](#) published an article outlining how "play" can positively impact learning and how program providers can incorporate it into programming. The article highlights the social-emotional learning competencies that come with high-quality "play."

[Students Look to Pursue STEM Careers](#)

[eSchool News](#) released an article with new survey data that suggests that more students are looking to pursue STEM learning opportunities and careers. Interestingly, the survey highlights that more girls and students of color are entering STEM professions.

[STEM Resources for Students and Families](#)

[The STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education \(STEMI2E2\)](#) created resources for families to integrate STEM opportunities into daily routines. STEMI2E2, funded by the U.S. Department of Education's [Office of Special Education Programs](#), strives to develop and enhance the knowledge base on engagement in STEM learning opportunities for children from birth through age five with disabilities.

Family and Community Partnerships

[Ready4K Text Messaging Program](#)

[Illinois Cares for Kids](#) has launched Ready4K, which is a free research-based text messaging program for families with child(ren) ages 0 to 11 years old in Illinois. Ready4K aims to support children's literacy and

messages are delivered in English, Spanish, Polish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic, or Russian. Ready4K is hosting [weekly information sessions](#) to share about the program offer and discuss implementation. For more information, please contact LeeAnn Kiper at lkiper@inccrra.org.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Trauma-Informed Practices Help Both Students and Educators](#)

[EducationWeek](#) published an op-ed piece showcasing the importance of using trauma-informed practices for students. The author describes the benefits of leveraging these strategies for educators, especially in response to processing the trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic in the education field.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Youth Development

[Science on the Go!](#)

[The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum](#) is sharing its Science on the Go curriculum for students in grades Kindergarten through eight. This curriculum is centered on locally-relevant science learning. All lesson materials included along with teacher professional development, museum educator visits to your classroom, and a field trip experience for your students. **Registration closes September 1, 2022.**

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Survey for Families on School Meals](#)

[The Greater Chicago Food Depository](#) is conducting a survey with Illinois families with school-aged children. about the [national school meals program](#). This program is federal meal initiative operating in schools that provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. The purpose of this survey is to understand you and your family's:

- Awareness and Perceptions of School Meals
- Perceptions and experiences with the application process

The learnings from this survey will be used to inform recommendations for a statewide school meal application. To be eligible for this survey, you must be a parent or guardian to a school-aged child. Families who complete a survey will be placed in a raffle to receive a \$50 gift card to compensate their time. Interested families can access the survey in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

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

Funding Opportunities

Family and Community Partnerships

[Horace Mann Educators Foundation Funding Opportunity](#)

[The Horace Mann Educators Foundation](#) is soliciting applications for its back-to-school giving initiative. The foundation is looking to match up to \$20,000 to benefit educators in Springfield, Illinois.

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](#)