

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Become an Afterschool Advocate!

[ACT Now](#) is now accepting applications for those looking to be an [Afterschool Advocate](#)! Afterschool Advocates act as champions of afterschool programs with diverse stakeholders in our communities. The key characteristics of Advocates are a love of afterschool and a willingness to talk to others about afterschool. Advocates - through their work in or with afterschool programs - know firsthand the benefits of afterschool and the barriers that their community faces in making afterschool available to all children. ACT Now's Afterschool Advocates will help facilitate activities that raise awareness of afterschool, including: coordinating a local Lights On Afterschool event, working with other local providers, advocates, and community groups to promote afterschool, reaching out to policymakers and the media on afterschool issues, identifying strong programs to highlight in your community to share their story, and more. **The deadline to apply is October 3, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. CST.**

To learn more and sign up to be an Afterschool Advocate for 2022-2023, click [here!](#)

New ACT Now Team Member

[ACT Now](#) would like to introduce our new intern, [Anna Miller](#), to our Coalition!



Anna will be working at **ACT Now** as our Policy and Communications Intern for the 2022-2023 school year. Anna is working towards attaining a Masters in Social Work from Loyola University. This year, she is really looking forward to learning more about the policy and outreach side of social work. In the past, she has primarily worked one-on-one with current and recently incarcerated individuals. A fun fact about Anna is that she spent a semester in Ireland at the University of Limerick.

Welcome, Anna!

Policy Updates

State Updates

[Chicago Public Schools Struggle to Maintain Student COVID-19 Vaccine Rate](#)

On **September 14, 2022**, [Chalkbeat](#) published an article sharing how [Chicago Public Schools \(CPS\)](#) is encountering issues with maintaining its student COVID-19 vaccination rate. The average school vaccination rate is 39.6% across all district-run schools. According to the article, vaccination rates remain the lowest at predominantly Black schools on the South and West Sides. This is especially alarming because in July 2021, CPS partnered with the [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#), and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) to promote vaccines. Additionally, the school district has opened regional vaccine hubs, school-based health centers, and hosted mobile vaccination clinics.

[Illinois eases COVID-19 Testing Requirements for Unvaccinated School Employees](#)

On **September 15, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker announced that unvaccinated school and child care staff are no longer required to test for COVID-19 infections each week. The state's new testing policy fully adopts the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [guidance from August](#), which no longer mandates routine testing in schools or child care settings regardless of vaccination status. The state's current data shows that vaccination rates for children are slowly increasing. The CDC recommends that schools still consider testing at times of high risk of spreading COVID-19 in the community.

For an archive of previously listed policy updates, click [here](#).

Trainings, Events and Webinars

To register for all upcoming **ACT Now** trainings, please sign up for the [ACT Now Center for Afterschool Learning \(ANCAL\)](#). ANCAL is an online learning and training platform that is FREE for all Illinois afterschool and OST professionals. Within this new online learning system, you will be able to access a full list of all of our professional development opportunities!

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	ACT Now	SEL Webinar #1: Youth and Self	October 26, 2022, from 10:00 a.m to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY)	IDHS Trauma Training: Culture & Trauma	October 27, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	ACT Now	STEM Curricula Training	TODAY, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Community Schools Statewide Q1 Convening: The Extended Learning Day	This convening has been postponed to October 12, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	School Partnership Webinar Series: Designing Programming Using Needs Assessment and Asset Mapping	September 22, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	<i>*This is tailored to school districts and administrators</i> REGISTER
	ACT Now	STEM Webinar #1: Launching the STEM OST Guidebook	September 27, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY) and Illinois Partners for Human Service	Health and Human Services Symposium	October 25, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	REGISTER

Youth Development	<u>ACT Now</u>	October Membership Exchange: Lights On Afterschool 2022	October 4, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	<u>REGISTER</u>
	<u>ACRES</u>	Facilitating Engineering Practices	October 4, 2022 October 18, 2022 November 1, 2022	<u>REGISTER</u>
	<u>The Erikson Institute</u>	Teaching Asian American History, Culture, and Literature for the PreK-8 Classroom	October 8, 2022, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	*There is a Fee for this PD <u>REGISTER</u>
	<u>National Girls Collaborative Project</u>	Addressing STEM Stereotypes with Youth and Young Adults	October 13, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.	<u>REGISTER</u>
	<u>Afterschool Alliance</u>	Lights On Afterschool 2022!	October 20, 2022 (ALL DAY)	<u>Register YOUR EVENT</u>
	<u>National Girls Collaborative Project</u>	Addressing STEM Stereotypes with Young Children	October 20, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.	<u>REGISTER</u>
	<u>National Girls Collaborative Project</u>	The Genius of Play and STEAM	November 8, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.	<u>REGISTER</u>
Family and Community Partnerships	<u>Illinois Department of Central Management Services</u>	From Exclusion to Inclusion: Hispanic, Latina, Latino & Latinx	October 14, 2022	<u>REGISTER</u>
	<u>Beyond the Basics</u>	Parte IX: Asistiendo a consumidores hispanos a obtener cobertura médica: consejos y mejores prácticas (Helping Spanish Speaking Consumers Get Health Coverage: Tips and Best Practices)	October 20, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.	<u>REGISTER</u>
	<u>National Girls Collaborative Project</u>	STEM Stories: Women's Experiences Advocating for Equity	November 8, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.	<u>REGISTER</u>

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Social and Emotional \(SEL\) Learning Curriculum: RULER](#)

[The Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) released a story on District 25 and the school district's newly implemented SEL curriculum called RULER. RULER is an acronym for five skills of emotional intelligence: Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing, and Regulating. RULER has been well received by members of the school community, especially as students and families begin to heal from the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Power of Us Survey](#)

[The American Institutes for Research \(AIR\)](#) want to know more about those who are working in the youth development field so that they can examine this collective workforce and the type of programming being facilitated for young people. Youth-serving staff and volunteers are invited to take the [Power of Us Workforce Survey](#). The data from the survey can help to inform policy, practice, and further research to better support the workforce. This initiative also invites individuals to be part of the Power of Us campaign, where interested participants can share their stories and help others to see why they should complete the survey as well.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program Webinars](#)

The [Illinois Student Assistance Commission \(ISAC\)](#) is providing additional webinars regarding the temporary changes to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program, which will end **October 30, 2022**. During the meeting, ISAC will share more information regarding a limited waiver that may benefit public sector and nonprofit employees. The dates of the webinar are:

- **TOMORROW (September 21, 2022), from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**
- **September 26, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

[Celebrating Students of Different Backgrounds](#)

On **October 4, 2022**, [Ed Leaders Network](#) is offering a webinar called "Celebrating and Honoring Students of All Backgrounds in Difficult Times." Attendees will learn the importance of understanding students' backgrounds, understanding their own backgrounds, and welcoming students to celebrate their own histories and cultures. The webinar will feature

authors/educators Tonya Perry, Steve Zemelman, and Katy Smith. They will reference approaches in their new book ["Teaching for Racial Equity"](#).

[Engage Girls in STEM](#)

[Techbridge Girls](#) developed a training video to help role models and volunteers engage young girls in STEM programs. The training helps role models and volunteers develop skills to engage girls from marginalized communities in STEM through videos, reflection questions and more.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Anti-Defamation League's No Place for Hate Initiative](#)

On **September 29, 2022, at 3:15 p.m.**, the [Anti-Defamation League](#) is holding a virtual information session on No Place for Hate. No Place for Hate is an anti-bullying, K-12 student led initiative designed to engage all school stakeholders in building a positive school environment. The information session will give administrators and educators the opportunity to learn more about how to join the No Place for Hate movement and how it can help your school or district create a more equitable and inclusive climate.

Youth Development

[Chicago Halloweek Parade](#)

[LUMA8](#) and the [City of Chicago](#) are excited to be partnering for the Upside Down Halloween parade! This event will be taking place on **October 22, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** in Washington Park. The event will feature dance performances, circus acrobats, musical groups, and more!

[Building Wonderful Junk](#)

[After-School Science PLUS](#) has released a quick STEM challenge for youth of all ages! Build a bridge or a platform that meets a set of requirements, test it, and iterate. This STEM activity is perfect for students learning how to problem solve in groups and is aligned to NGSS standards.

[Latina Girls Who Code](#)

[Latina Girls Code \(LGC\)](#), formed in 2014, is a program that aims to bridge the diversity gap in STEM for Latinx girls who are interested in technology. LGC works to provide mentors, access to hardware and digital tools, as well as internships through various programs and events throughout the year for youth.

[Connecting Students from K to Career](#)

[The National AfterSchool Association](#) has partnered with [Discovery Education](#) to inspire a culture of STEM education in K–12 schools and afterschool organizations nationwide. Select schools and afterschool organizations will be provided full access to Discovery Education’s Daily Learning Platform, making it easy to find engaging resources that reach every student. Discovery Education’s flexible, award-winning K–12 learning platform connects educators and afterschool professionals to a vast collection of high-quality, standards-aligned content, ready-to-use digital lessons, and timely professional learning.

Family and Community Partnerships

[Latinx Heritage Month Event at Chicago History Museum](#)

On **October 2, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, the [Chicago History Museum](#) is holding an event to celebrate Latinx Heritage Month. The event will give people the opportunity to learn more about the different cultures and history of Latin America. The event is free with general admission to the museum and no prior registration is needed!

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[Future Teacher Conference Event](#)

On **October 21, 2022**, the [Illinois State University College of Education](#) is offering a great opportunity for high school students who are interested in pursuing a career in teaching. The conference will give students a chance to learn about the process of becoming a teacher and also what to expect before entering the profession. Five seniors who attended the event will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship! For more information or the registration link for your school, please contact Kelli Appel at ksappel@ilstu.edu. **Registration closes October 7, 2022.**

[Discover Computing Series](#)

The [Discovery Partners Institute](#), Wilbur Wright College, and Google Chicago are offering a new program series, called DISCOVER COMPUTING! Discover Computing is a two-part program series designed to build a deeper and more diverse pool of students pursuing computer science and tech-related fields of study in Illinois. DISCOVER COMPUTING 1 & 2 will be offered **Saturday’s, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**, for high school freshmen and sophomores. Please note that these sessions will be held in person at DPI’s Chicago office (200 S. Wacker).

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

Funding Opportunities

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** (Policy and Communications Manager) 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](#)

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