

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Updates

Illinois State Board of Education September Board Meeting Recap

On **September 20, 2022**, and **September 21, 2022**, the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) met for its annual retreat and its monthly Board meeting. To access the recordings and meeting materials, click [here](#). Superintendent Ayala welcomed Dr. Steven Isoye as the incoming chair of the ISBE Board and provided time for a team building exercise, rooted in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) strategies. Both days, the state agency heard public comment on the topics of supporting students with dyslexia, providing resources for students with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and North Chicago School District's transition to an elected board. During the first day of the retreat, ISBE Board members planned for upcoming monthly meetings. ISBE also heard presentations on the agency's equity initiatives, and new portfolio to help monitor and document all DEI work, as well as programs in place to support the educator pipeline in Illinois. There was specific attention given to providing resources, training, and culturally responsive supports for educators of color in order to hire and retain more diverse teachers. During the second day of the retreat, ISBE board members approved the timeline to transition North Chicago School District to an elected school board by 2025. ISBE also approved all items on the consent agenda, including a sole source grant to After School Matters, and a revision to a resolution to support in-person learning for students. **The next ISBE Board meeting will take place on October 18, 2022. The Board also has upcoming FY24 budget hearings in early-October (both in-person and virtual). To find more details about the budget hearings, click [here](#).**

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 Afterschool Network	Youth Mental Health First Response Training- Part 1 Youth Mental Health First Response Training- Part 2	Part 1- September 28, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Part 2- October 5, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER for Pt. 1 REGISTER for Pt. 2
	SIU School of Medicine	2022 Innovating Illinois Rural Health Summit: Addressing Rural Needs in Programs and Policies	October 27, 2022, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	ACT Now	STEM Webinar #1: Launching the STEM OST Guidebook	TODAY, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment Tool: New User Webinar #1	October 11, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.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
	Erikson Institute	Decolonizing Data and Language Workshop	October 19, 2022, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	National Afterschool Association	Elevating Quality through Promising Workforce Practices	November 9, 2022, at 12:00 PM	REGISTER

Youth Development	ACT Now	October Membership Exchange: Lights On Afterschool 2022	October 4, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Afterschool Alliance	Lights On Afterschool 2022!	October 20, 2022 (ALL DAY)	Register YOUR EVENT
	Learning Policy Institute	Whole Child Policy: Putting the Science of Learning and Development Into Practice	October 26, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[ACT Now STEM Guidebook Released Today](#)

[ACT Now's](#) new STEM Guidebook was released **TODAY!** This guide is designed to showcase the benefits of out-of-school time programs, aid in justifying the implementation and funding of these programs, provide guidance in selecting and implementing quality STEM curriculum, suggest tools to evaluate STEM programming, indicate possible funding streams, and provide a list of reviewed STEM resources! To learn more about this resource, please join us **TODAY** for our first **STEM Webinar (Launching the STEM OST Guidebook)**.

[Erikson Institute's Efforts to be More Inclusive](#)

[The Erikson Institute's](#) Policy and Leadership team outlined their efforts to be more inclusive in the blog post titled "Decolonizing is Not One Size Fits All." The blog post discussed how only offering trainings and webinars in English, excludes entire populations from being able to participate. This resource will help program providers cater programming and workshops to be more inclusive in the future.

[Afterschool in the Time of COVID-19: A Look at Rural, Suburban, and Urban Communities](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) shared a new report on the state of afterschool across different community environments, titled "[Access to Afterschool Programs Remains a Challenge for Many Families](#)." The data was taken from a national survey of almost 1,500 families in the United States and highlights the continued need to expand access to out-of-school time (OST) programming.

Safety, Health, Nutrition

[Ways to Support Youth Mental Health](#)

[eSchool News](#) published an article discussing three ways to support youth mental health. The first tool encourages administrators to use the peer model to encourage students to be advocates of mental health. The second tool involves finding alternative methods of communicating mental health campaigns, and encourages the use of social media as a resource. Finally, the last tool is offering students on-demand mental health services.

[BIPOC Mental Health Resources](#)

[Mental Health America](#) developed a Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Mental Health Toolkit. The toolkit has information and resources specifically for BIPOC communities, calls to action, worksheets, and general resources for BIPOC individuals. Click [here](#) to access the toolkit in English and [here](#) to access it in Spanish.

Youth Development

[Research Study Finds Evidence to Support Universal Pre-K](#)

[The 74](#) posted an article that outlined the latest results of a study of state-funded pre-Kindergarten services (pre-K). The study ultimately strengthened the case for universal programs open to all young children.

[National Space Council Educator Resources](#)

The [White House Space Council Fact Sheet](#) hosts information on the “Your Place in Space” Online Resources Hub, which is a new initiative launched by Federal agencies and the Smithsonian Institute to provide STEM resources for K-12 educators. This resource hub also promotes career awareness through the [Space Career Resource Guide](#) that highlights space career opportunities across the U.S. Government and the diversity of the space STEM professionals.

[Eight Strategies for Encouraging Retaining Girls & Women to Participate in STEM](#)

[The National Science Foundation's \(NSF\) INCLUDES Network](#) issued a research brief, [Evidenced-based Strategies for Attracting and Retaining Girls and Women in STEM](#), that includes evidence-based strategies for attracting and retaining girls and women in STEM.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[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!](#)

[Foundations Inc. Conference](#)

[Foundations Inc.](#) is holding their #BeyondSchoolHours 2023 Conference! The premier gathering of education practitioners + thought leaders is taking place from **February 9, 2022, to February 12, 2022**, in Florida! You'll get to attend workshops, keynote presentations, excursions and exhibits. The early bird rate ends on **September 30, 2022.**

Family and Community Partnerships

[Hispanic Heritage Month Events in Schaumburg!](#)

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, the [Schaumburg Township District Library](#) is partnering with local Mexican artist Cristina Colunga to create a Community Ofrenda at each of their locations. Township District Library is encouraging people to bring a photo to any library location or upload online [here](#). They are also hosting a Day of the Dead Celebration (Día de los Muertos) on **November 2, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at Central Library. To learn more about other events the Township District Library is hosting, click [here!](#)

[A Celebration of Hispanic Cultures](#)

On **September 29, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.,** [Evanston Pride](#) is hosting a celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month at Fountain Square. The event will have a Flamenco dance performance, Mariachi Sirenas, loteria games for kids, raffle prizes, and more.

Youth Development

[X-STEM All Access Video Series for Middle & High School Students and Teachers](#)

The [U.S. Air Force](#), [U.S. Space Force](#), and [Discovery Channel](#), have partnered to create [X-STEM All Access](#), which is a free virtual conference series for middle and high schoolers to ignite interest in STEM professions. The 2022 series will include seven episodes showcasing the exciting careers and inspiring personal journeys of diverse STEM role models. Each 30-minute episode will feature a STEM role model telling their story through a lively Q&A session with a fellow STEM professional.

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[Chicago Youth Service Corps](#)

[Chicago Youth Service Corps](#) is a year-round program that provides paid opportunities for youth ages 16 through 24 to engage in community service, project-based learning, and leadership development. Chicago Youth Service Corps encourages diverse backgrounds and welcomes you to bring your experience, background, and traditions to your service. **Apply [here](#)!**

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

Funding Opportunities

Family and Community Partnerships

[Funding Opportunity for Parent Teacher Association](#)

[National PTA](#) is offering over \$600,000 in funding for PTAs/PTSAs that are in good standing as defined by their state PTA and interested in implementing an engaging National PTA program focused on STEM, literacy, digital citizenship, mental health, healthy lifestyles or the arts. The deadline to apply is **TODAY, September 27, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.** To learn more click [here](#).

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](#).

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