

# ACTNOW!

## NEWSLETTER



## Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays from the **ACT Now** Team! Our offices will be closed from **December 22, 2022 to January 3rd, 2023.**

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## Policy Updates

## Federal Updates

### [Congress Avoids Partial Government Shutdown](#)

On **December 15, 2022**, the U.S. Senate approved a one-week stopgap spending measure. The stopgap bill, known as a Continuing Resolution, will keep the government funded for another week while lawmakers work on a final spending package for FY23. **The continuing resolution keeps the government funded through December 23, 2022.**

## State Updates

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

On **December 14, 2022**, the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) met for its monthly Board meeting. To access the recordings and meeting materials, click [here](#). Board members heard public comments on topics including charter school renewal applications, prioritizing student literacy, school district budget transparency, and supporting educators and students in School District 209. Board members also recognized Evelyn Meeks as the 2022 Thomas Lay Burroughs Award Recipient.

The Board then turned its attention to a presentation on revenue projections for FY24 in Illinois and a discussion of the FY24 Budget requests from the public FY24 Budget Hearings in October 2022. Notably, the ISBE Board shared its interest in including additional funding for the Evidence-Based Funding line, the Early Childhood Education program, and the Career and Technical Education (CTE) line in the agency's FY24 Budget Recommendations to Governor JB Pritzker. ISBE Board members also recommended funding for the Educators Rising program, Parent Education Pilot Program, Simon Weisenthal Center, and the YouthBuild Illinois initiative. Due to an extended Closed Session, the Board moved to push the Strategic Plan Update to the January 2023 ISBE Board meeting. ISBE Board members then approved all items on the Consent Agenda and voted to release funding for IL-Empower grants. Finally, the Board heard a presentation for the FY24 legislative agenda that focuses on combatting the educator shortage across the state (including early childhood care providers) and developing a new competitive grant to support Computer Science opportunities for marginalized youth populations. After approving upcoming Board actions, the meeting adjourned. **State Superintendent Carmen Ayala is expected to provide a budget recommendation to the board on January 18, 2023. The next ISBE Board meeting will take place on January 18, 2023.**

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

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# 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!

## **ACT Now Events:**

- [New User IL-QPSA Webinar #2](#): January 10, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- [Returning User IL-QPSA Webinar #1](#): January 12, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- [School Partnerships Series: Curricula and Activities](#): January 17, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

## **External Events:**

- [National Girls Collaborative Project: The Impact of STEM Role Models and Mentors](#): January 26, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

# Resources for Providers

## **Administration**

### **[How Much Federal COVID Money have Illinois Schools Spent?](#)**

The [Illinois State Board of Education](#) launched a dashboard that will provide “real-time updates” on how districts have reported spending the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding that was aimed towards helping students recover from

the pandemic. [Data](#) has shown that low income districts have been slower to spend their funding.

## Safety, Health, Nutrition

### [Free At Home COVID-19 Tests](#)

The [White House](#) has made at home COVID-19 tests free again. The tests will start to ship the week of **December 19, 2022**.

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

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# Opportunities for Providers

## Youth Development

### [Dignity of Children's Social Entrepreneurship Program](#)

The [Dignity of Children's Social Entrepreneurship Program](#) has partnered with the [Illinois Afterschool Network](#) (IAN) for an upcoming initiative. Illinois afterschool providers will have the opportunity to facilitate the Dignity of Children's Social Entrepreneurship Project Based Learning (PBL) Curriculum to their youth (12 to 18 years old). The goal is to prepare them to showcase their business ideas at the [IAN Annual Spring Virtual Conference in March 2023](#) and go on to participate in [Dignity of Children's Entrepreneurship Competition](#) or at [iDEAS Empowered by Youth Symposium](#). **For more information, please contact Curtis Peace at [ILafterschoolcp@gmail.com](mailto:ILafterschoolcp@gmail.com).**

### [Youth Systems Building Academy](#)

The [US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration](#) is inviting workforce communities to nominate themselves to be a part of the [Youth Systems Building Academy \(YSBA\)](#). YSBA will provide local workforce systems and their community partners with training and technical assistance to explore approaches to engage young people in the workforce. **Applications are due before January 13, 2023, 4:00 p.m.**

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

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# Youth Opportunities

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

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# Funding Opportunities

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

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**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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