

# ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

## Policy Updates

### State Updates

#### Illinois State Board of Education January Board Meeting Recap

On **January 18, 2023**, 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 comment on topics including increasing the state agency's proposed Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) budget ask for the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) and the Early Childhood Education grant lines. Public comment also focused on prioritizing student literacy. Board members then recognized State Superintendent Dr. Carmen Ayala's contributions to the agency, as well as several members of the board whose terms will end on **February 1, 2023**.

The Board then turned its attention to presentations on School Year 2022-2023 PreK-12 enrollment and state assessments. Board members also heard a brief presentation on the agency's \$10.274 billion FY24 Budget recommendation to Governor JB Pritzker for Birth to 12 Education. This is a \$515.8 million increase over the current FY23 budget. ISBE proposed:

- \$4 million for After School Matters
- \$20 million for After School Programs
- A \$350 million increase for EBF for a total of \$8.279 billion for FY24
- A \$59.8 million, or a 10 percent increase, for Early Childhood Education for a total of \$657.951 million for FY24
- A \$2.664 million increase for Career and Technical Education (CTE) for a total of \$2.664 million for FY24. This line item has been level funded for over two decades and funding will be allocated based on CTE enrollment data.
- \$2.5 million for the School STEAM Grant Program Fund
- \$17 million for the Freedom Schools Fund
- A new appropriation of \$3 million for the Computer Science Education Equity program. This legislative appropriation aims to increase students' Computer Science

outcomes and decrease barriers to access to technology in Illinois. Funding will be used for curriculum, staff professional development, and initiating the program.

- ISBE Board members expressed concern about funding gaps related to federal COVID-19 relief dollars for school districts and recommended finding sustainable ways to ensure that EBF receives incremental increases each fiscal year (FY).

Finally, the Board heard a presentation on its strategic plan where the successes of the seven regional SEL hubs and other administrative accomplishments were shown. ISBE Board members then approved all items on the Consent Agenda and voted to approve the FY24 Budget recommendation. After approving upcoming Board actions, the meeting adjourned. **The next ISBE Board meeting will take place on February 16, 2023.**

*For an archive of our 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:**

- **[ACT Now STEM Club Training #2](#)**: January 25, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **[STEM Webinar: Creating Collaboration](#)**: January 31, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- **[RPSA YDS Quarterly Meeting #3](#)**: February 8, 2023, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
- **[ACT Now SEL Webinar: Youth and Youth](#)**: February 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

### **External Events:**

- **[EdPrepLab: Preparing Educators to Create Environments of Safety and Belonging](#)**: February 1, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- **EdPrepLab:** [Fostering Safety and Belonging for Immigrant-Origin Youth](#): February 3, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **Illinois AfterSchool Network:** [Raising Ready Readers: Parent Edition](#): February 11, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- **Click2Engineering:** [Connecting Computational Thinking and the Engineering Mindset](#): February 21, 2023, from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

## Resources for Providers

### Administration

#### [How to Recognize the Hard Work of OST Professionals in 2023](#)

The [National AfterSchool Association](#) (NAA) posted a blog that discusses ways to thank out-of-school-time (OST) professionals for the critical work they do. One of the suggestions involves offering them assistance through sustaining self-care and mental health support services.

#### [New School Year Shows Continued Signs of Academic Rebounding](#)

The [Northwest Evaluation Association](#) (NWEA) released new research findings using fall 2022 assessment data from nearly 7 million U.S. students in grades three to eight. Key findings include academic rebounding in reading and math continued in fall 2022.

### Youth Development

#### [Mars Rover Driver Board Game](#)

In this board-game lesson provided by [NASA](#), students play the roles of a Mars rover, scientist, and engineer to make exploration decisions and accomplish science goals. Students also learn to write basic command sequences, which lay the groundwork for developing computer programming skills.

### Safety, Health, and Nutrition

#### [Racial and Ethnic Differences in COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Youth](#)

The [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) released a report that discusses racial and ethnic differences in COVID-19 vaccination coverage among youth aged five to 17 years old. The recommendations argue that to increase overall coverage and address disparities in child and adolescent COVID-19 vaccination coverage, providers and trusted messengers should provide culturally relevant information and vaccine recommendations.

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

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## Opportunities for Providers

### Administration

#### [Girls STEAM SUCCESS Club STEAM Celebration!](#)

The [Girls STEAM Celebration](#) will take place on **March 4, 2023** from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at [Prairie State College & Conference Center](#) (202 S. Halsted St. Chicago Heights, IL 60411). [Homewood Science Center](#) is asking for assistance in recruiting mentors in STEAM to present activity and outreach tables during their STEAM Celebration. A full-day of participation is not required to mentor.

#### [Forefront's Racial Equity Collective Survey](#)

[Forefront](#) has launched their Racial Equity Collective Survey, a statewide outreach to identify the DEI leaders, non-profit + private sector organizations, philanthropic funders, and individuals that are working to change practices, policies, and organizational cultures to advance racial equity in Illinois. Deadline to complete the survey is **February 13, 2023**.

#### [2023 CCE Conference: Save the Date & Call for Proposals](#)

The [College Changes Everything \(CCE\) Conference](#) will take place on **July 13, 2023**, at the [Tinley Park Convention Center](#). The annual conference is the state's college access and success and career readiness event. They are also inviting people to submit a conference interest session proposal. **Proposals are due March 3, 2023**.

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

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# Youth Opportunities

## Youth Development

### [Girls STEAM SUCCESS Club!](#)

[Girls STEAM SUCCESS Club](#) is open to sixth to 12th grade students across the south suburbs of Chicago. Members will get special invites to events including their STEAM Celebration, CPR & First Aid Trainings, family field trips, and their family film event. **Apply by February 17, 2023.**

### [Girls Who Code Summer Programs](#)

[Girls Who Code](#) is offering a two week Summer immersion program or a 6-week self-paced experience that will allow students an opportunity to learn about computer science in a style that works best for them while making meaningful connections. All high school students who identify as girls or non-binary can apply, and no prior computer science experience is required!

*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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## *Were you forwarded this email?*

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

**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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