

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Level

Perkins V State Plan Listening & Feedback Sessions

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) are holding regional events in order to share the second draft of the state's Perkins V Plan for Career and Technical Education. To read the second draft, click [here](#). To review ACT Now's comments on the plan, click [here](#). **Between January 28, 2020 and January 30, 2020, there will be four events.** For more information on these events and to attend them, click [here](#).

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

Upcoming Community School Training and Networking Events

Don't forget to join us for our upcoming Community School Networking and Training Events! Each meeting provides an opportunity to hear policy updates from ACT Now, hear from a speaker on topics voted on by the group, and time to workshop ideas with your peers. See details below.

Downstate—January 28, 2020 10:00 a.m. to noon

- **Topic:** Building Partnerships
- **Speakers:** Joie Frankovich, WeGo Together for Kids of West Chicago
- **Location:** Wanless Building, [2120 E Reservoir St., Springfield, IL](#)

- Register [here](#)

Suburbs—February 7, 2020 10:00 a.m. to noon

- **Topic:** Effective Messaging
- **Speakers:** Susan Stanton, ACT Now
- **Location:** Skokie District Office, [5050 Madison St., Skokie, IL](#)
- Register [here](#)

Chicago—February 20, 2020 10:00 a.m. to noon

- **Topic:** Trauma Informed Care
- **Speakers:** Illinois Collaboration on Youth
- **Location:** National Museum of Mexican Art, [1852 W 19th St., Chicago, IL](#)
- Register [here](#)

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Professional Development and Qualifications

ACT Now 2020 Winter/Spring Quality Standards Trainings

ACT Now is providing **FREE** in-person trainings on the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards in order to help afterschool providers and staff continuously improve the quality of their programs. The trainings will: provide participants with a background in the Standards; assist providers in creating a plan for implementing Standards; and help to develop strategies for overcoming obstacles in implementing quality initiatives. The trainings dates for 2020 are listed below.

Homewood – February 12, 2020

- **Location:** Homewood Science Center, 18022 Dixie Hwy, Homewood IL 60430
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Register [here](#)

Springfield – March 19, 2020

- **Location:** Capital Area Career Center, Toronto Rd, Springfield IL 62712

- **Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Register [here](#)

Chicago – April 23, 2020

- **Location:** YMCA Learning Institute, 1030 W. Van Buren St., Chicago IL 60607
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Register [here](#)

Family and Community Partnerships

ACT Now Training: Creating A Systematic Approach to Family Engagement

Based upon Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards, ACT Now will be holding an immersive training to improve family engagement in out-of-school time. Participants will dive into the layers family engagement, develop a model of evaluation, and through peer-to-peer learning, craft a systematic strategy to high-quality and evidence-based family engagement. The training will occur on **March 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** To register, click [here](#).

IL Star Net Training: Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Family Engagement

Family engagement in an important component of high-quality early childhood programming. Interacting with families from diverse backgrounds requires educators to reflect on their own cultural beliefs, language and practices, as well as being open to those of others. Examples presented will provide a baseline for discussion on how to transform the classroom and program practices to engage families authentically. The training will occur in **Des Plaines** on **March 18, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** For directions and to register, click [here](#).

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

ACT Now STEM Webinar: Developing STEM Projects

ACT Now is hosting another series of 4 STEM PD webinars for program providers to have an opportunity to strengthen their ability to navigate and implement STEM resources and activities. Our next webinar is focused on **Developing STEM Projects** and will occur on **February 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** You can register for the webinar [here](#). Our final webinar

of the year will be on **STEM and the Workforce** on **April 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

ACT Now SEL Webinar on Social Awareness

Join ACT Now for our upcoming Social Emotional Learning (SEL) webinar series! The second webinar will cover **social awareness**. This webinar will be held on **January 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** with guest speakers Susan Stanton (ACT Now), Bryan Kelly (Skokie District 69), Sarah Rankin (Skokie District 69), Susan Castrogiovani (DREAM West Chicago), and Enrique Alvarez (Central States SER). In addition to the webinar, ACT Now will be sharing our *Social Emotional Learning in Afterschool* guidebook! Register [here](#).

ACT for Youth Webinar: LGBTQ Youth Mental Health Today

This webinar will review the most recent data from Trevor Project's annual National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. Participants will learn about key findings from the report as well as the many ways that Trevor Project can be a life-saving resource for young people. The webinar will be held on **February 19, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.** For more information and to register, click [here](#).

YMCA Webinar: Anti-bias Literacy Approach

The YMCA will be holding a webinar that promotes using an anti-bias education framework to inform curricular choices by educators. The framework is tailored to teachers supporting young learners so that everyone may respect and embrace differences both inside and outside the classroom. This webinar will occur on **February 27, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

EarthEcho International: The OurEcho Challenge

EarthEcho International is holding a STEM innovation competition for U.S. middle school students with the goal of encouraging youth to look at the

biodiversity represented in their communities. Participants will identify local threats to these ecosystems and propose solutions to combat, protect and repair the natural resources. 10 finalist teams will travel to Washington, D.C. with EarthEcho to present their ideas. Top three teams will be awarded grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000. **Submissions are open from January 27, 2020 to March 22, 2020.** To learn more, click [here](#). To watch a video on the contest, click [here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

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

Funding Opportunities

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

ACT for Youth: SEL Toolkit

This SEL Toolkit offers web-based resources to help professionals working with young people to provide opportunities for social and emotional learning. Materials include: manuals, activities, fact sheets, videos, and other websites. The Toolkit was assembled by the ***Risk and Thriving in Adolescence Program Work Team***, from Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension, New York State 4-H Youth Development, and external stakeholders. Click [here](#) to access the Toolkit.

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

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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 (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate)** at Spencere@actnowillinois.org

NOTE: We are now sorting our trainings and resources by the Core Areas in the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards to promote better understanding and implementation of the Standards. Dark blue headings denote a Core Area. To learn more about the Quality Standards, click [here](#).

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