

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Updates

[Updated In-Person Learning Guidance](#)

Effective **September 21, 2022**, the [Illinois State Board of Education](#) (ISBE) announced that all schools must continue to provide fully in-person learning for all school days, provided that remote instruction: is available for individual students who are excluded from school consistent with guidance from the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) (IDPH) or a local public health department, and is available for students whose entire classroom or entire school is being conducted virtually after consultation with a local public health department.

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
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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
	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
	National CACFP Sponsors Association	Saturday Summit 2022	October 15, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.	REGISTER *There is a fee for this event
Professional Development	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	ACT Now Quality Standards 101 Training	November 2, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Forefront	Queer & Trans Leadership and the Fight for LGBTQ Migrant Rights	October 5, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. from 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Forefront	Essentials of Policy Advocacy for Grantmakers	October 6, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. October 7, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	REGISTER *There is a fee for this event
	ACRES	Asking Purposeful Questions	October 19, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. November 2, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. November 16, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	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
	Illinois Afterschool Network	23rd Annual Lights On Afterschool Celebration	October 20, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.	REGISTER
Family and Community Partnerships	AMLE	Enhancing School Community Building with Out of School Solutions	October 11, 2022, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[The State of Afterschool Programs Report Takeaways](#)

The [EdWeek Research Center](#) recently produced [The State of After-School Programs: Programming Results of a National Survey On Programming During a Pandemic](#). The report shares the results of the survey, which asked principals and afterschool employees about the types of activities that programs provide, effects of pandemic-related changes, and staffing challenges. The [National Afterschool Association](#) laid out the key takeaways from the report. The key points were that access to afterschool programs is not universal, there needs to be more focus on social and emotional learning, and challenges with staffing could impact access to afterschool programs.

[The Impact of School Staffing Shortages](#)

On **September 27, 2022**, [Education Week](#) published an article explaining that schools are struggling to fill critical positions, specifically math and special education roles. Results from a [federal survey](#) found that 60 percent of principals surveyed said they are struggling to fill non teaching positions, and 48 percent reported hiring teachers has been a challenge. The article also highlighted that for schools serving majority high poverty students and students of color, filling vacant roles is even more challenging.

[Using COVID-19 Aid to Give Jobs to Students](#)

An article published by [Chalkbeat](#) outlined how schools across the country are getting creative with how they spend their COVID-19 aid by using it to provide students with paid jobs. These schools are giving students the opportunity to work as tutors, intern for businesses, and more. By paying students for these jobs, they are able to gain new experiences and get paid for their

skills. This new system also allows students who worked minimum wage jobs late hours, to instead have a better balance between school and work.

[Overcoming Chronic Absenteeism](#)

The [Learning Policy Institute](#) published a blog stressing the importance attendance and the impact it has on students learning. The article outlined some of the reasons students are not attending school such as personal issues or lack of transportation. The blog also highlighted different strategies to help more students attended school regularly, starting with moving away from a blame mindset.

Safety, Health, Nutrition

[Creating a Positive Classroom Environment](#)

[eschool News](#) outlined four strategies that can help create a positive classroom culture as the school year begins. In the wake of the isolation and trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health and behavioral challenges have increased as students continue to process unprecedented amounts of stress and anxiety. The four strategies center around creating a calming environment, offering opportunities for pause, allowing students to express how they feel, and doing a two word check in at the end of the day.

Youth Development

[X-STEM All Access Video Series](#)

[X-STEM All Access](#) is a free virtual conference series by the [USA Science & Engineering Festival](#) for middle and high schoolers designed to get students excited about STEM. The 2022 series will include seven episodes showing the exciting careers of diverse STEM role models. The episodes will feature a STEM role model telling their story through a Q&A session with a fellow STEM professional. Join the next X-STEM All Access episode featuring NASA Climate Scientist [Josh Willis](#)!

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[Lights On Afterschool Panel](#)

The [Illinois Afterschool Network](#) (IAN) is hosting an event on **October 20, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** to celebrate the annual Lights On Afterschool Celebration! IAN will be facilitating a panel discussion with leaders in the state. Speakers will share their thoughts on the current state of afterschool programs as well as their thoughts on the future of the field in Illinois.

[Fostering Student Well-Being Webinar](#)

[Hanover Research](#) is hosting a webinar on **October 11, 2022, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** During the webinar you will gain critical insights into assessing needs and gaps in existing programming, setting goals and building improvement plans, gaining stakeholder support, and evaluating and adjusting programs.

[Youth Engineering Solutions \(YES\) Out of School Field Testing Opportunity](#)

Dr. Christine Cunningham, and her team at Penn State University, are inviting 22 educators across the United State to help develop afterschool engineering curricular materials for youth ages nine through 13 Selected educators will be go through asynchronous professional learning, will receive all curricular materials, and will be asked for their insights and reflections to improve the experience for youth. **The deadline to apply is October 15, 2022.**

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[Explore a Career in STEM at the Museum of Science + Industry Chicago](#)

On **October 8, 2022, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**, [Science Works](#) is hosting an event at the [Museum of Science and Industry](#) where youth can learn about careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) straight from the professionals at their Museum-wide career celebration. Science Works will feature speakers, hands-on activities and one-on-one discussions. Youth can discover what interesting jobs the STEM fields have to offer and get advice on pursuing a future in STEM.

[Celebrate World Space Week at Lincoln Library](#)

To celebrate World Space Week, the [Lincoln Library](#) is hosting space themed events on **October 5, 2022! From 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, kids can visit different stations to make space-themed lights, art and more. **From 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**, teens can make space-themed lights, jewelry and more.

[U.S. Presidential Scholars General Nominations](#)

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program honors students based on outstanding academics. Principals and school counselors can nominate high school seniors graduating between January and June of 2023 who might not otherwise be recognized through the SAT/ACT, Arts, Career Technical Education (CTE) recognition process. Administrators, counselors, and teachers may nominate up to 10 students for consideration. **Applications must be submitted to presidentialscholars@isbe.net on October 14, 2022, by 4:00 p.m. CST.**

[U.S. Presidential Scholars CTE Nominations](#)

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program now honors students based on outstanding academics and demonstrated ability and accomplishment in the Career Technical Education (CTE) fields. Administrators, counselors, and teachers may nominate up to five CTE students per school for consideration. The top five nominees from Illinois will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education. All 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. **Applications must be submitted to presidentialscholars@isbe.net on October 14, 2022, by 4:00 p.m. CST.**

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

Funding Opportunities

Administrators

[Chicago Department of Family and Support Services Youth Mentoring RFP](#)

The [Chicago Department of Family and Support Services](#) (DFSS) launched the My CHI. My Future. Safe Spaces for Youth Request for Proposal (RFP). Safe Spaces for Youth delegates will employ youth in 15 communities throughout the year to plan and host events for young people where they can gather with other youth in their communities. DFSS is looking to provide funding to delegate agencies with experience in managing youth development programming and implementing subsidized youth employment programs for young people ages 16-24. Applicants must work with youth in at least one of the 15 communities of focus. **DFSS is holding an info session on October 14, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** To register for the info session, click [here](#). **Applications are due November 4, 2022.**

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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