

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Updates

Illinois State Board of Education Board March Meeting Recap

On **March 16, 2022**, the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) met for its monthly meeting hosted at the Rockford School District. The Board meeting materials and future meeting dates are available, [here](#). The Board heard public comment on the Right to Read Act, principal and teacher preparation, and standardized assessments. The Board heard presentations on advancements in Rockford Public Schools, policy updates, North Chicago's progress with independent monitoring, and the assessment survey results. The Board discussed upcoming Board Actions, which included a contract with Northern Illinois University for a 21st Century Community Learning Community (21st CCLC) data management system for ISBE. **The next ISBE Board meeting will take place on April 20, 2022.**

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
Youth Development	ACT Now	STEM Webinar #4: Big, Blue Rock: Integrating Geoscience	April 7, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER

		Curriculum into STEM OST Programming		
Professional Development	ACT Now	Community Schools SUBURBS Training: Creating a Culture of Support and Supporting Staff	TOMORROW , from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Narrative 4 + ACT Now Story Exchange	March 29, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois AfterSchool Network	36th Annual Spring Virtual Conference	March 30, 2022, to April 1, 2022	REGISTER
	ACT Now and Illinois AfterSchool Network	Teen REACH Quarterly Meeting #3	March 30, 2022 (During IAN's 36th Annual Spring Virtual Conference)	REGISTER
	ACT Now	IL-QPSA Webinar #3 for NEW Users	April 13, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	IL-QPSA Webinar #2 for RETURNING Users	April 14, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	April Membership Exchange	April 26, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Community Schools CHICAGO Training: Family Engagement	April 27, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Family and Community Partnerships	Illinois AfterSchool Network	Parent Cafe: Communication - Supporting Social Emotional Development	April 23, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois State Board of Education	ISBE Work-based Learning Pilot: Community Showcase	April 26, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Resources for Celebrating Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week](#)

[The National Afterschool Association \(NAA\)](#) has developed several resources for programs, families, and youth to use to celebrate out-of-school time (OST) professionals in their lives during the **week of April 25, 2022!**

Professional Development

[Fiscal Management Professional Development Opportunity](#)

[You For Youth \(Y4Y\)](#) focuses on providing professional development for every staff member at every level of a 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program. This specific opportunity focuses on fiscal management and participants will receive a certificate of completion.

Youth Development

[Grow It, Try It, Like It! Nutrition Education Kit](#)

[MyPlate's](#) garden-themed nutrition education kit can help educators teach little ones about gardening and to introduce new fruits and vegetables. This is a great way to also incorporate STEM competencies at a young age and in an engaging way!

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[How to Support Students with Technology Fatigue](#)

[EducationWeek](#) has released an article sharing strategies for educators and afterschool professionals to leverage in programming to ensure that students feel supported. The article gives suggestions for relieving the burden of the constant use of technology even in hybrid activities.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[New City of Chicago Initiative & Input Needed for Request for Proposals](#)

Trigger Warning: As part of the new efforts the City is making to address gender-based violence and human trafficking (GBV/HT), the [Department of Family and Support Services \(DFSS\)](#) is developing funding opportunities for community-based organizations to address the needs of youth who are impacted by GBV/HT. The Mayor's Office and DFSS are also looking to host a brief conversation on the topic on **March 24, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Youth Development

[Big, Blue Rock: Integrating Geoscience Curriculum into STEM OST Programming](#)

By popular demand, our final STEM webinar of the fiscal year will bring together experts and curricula materials focused on geosciences. “Geosciences” is a broad term that encompasses all the topics relating to the science of our planet including climate change, geology, environmental science, and planetary science. In this 1-hour, interactive webinar, on **April 7, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, attendees will hear from Sara Kurth, Educator and Program Coordinator at the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art; and Susan M. Kohler, Education Specialist with NASA who will:

- Demonstrate accessible activities and connect participants to the science
- Connect programs with STEM career professionals in the geosciences
- Provide resources for additional learning opportunities

For questions or concerns, please contact [Lesley Fisher Chapman](#) (Program Coordinator) at ChapmanL@actnowillinois.org.

[NASA STEM Opportunities for Providers and Youth](#)

[NASA](#) is hosting two exciting summer opportunities for elementary and middle school students to explore NASA and STEM careers:

- [TECH Day](#) is a one day event for middle school students that will be held virtually on **May 12, 2022**. TECH stands for: Tours of NASA, Engineering challenge, Career exploration, and Hands-on activity. Student will also have a chance to ask STEM/NASA professionals questions! **Registration for this event closes on April 14, 2022.**
- The [NASA STEM Kids Virtual Event](#) will be held virtually on **May 14, 2022**. This event will engage Kindergarten through fourth grade (K-4) students in the excitement of NASA’s missions of exploration and discovery through virtual tours, conversations with NASA experts, and hands-on activities related to aeronautics. **Registration for this event also closes on April 14, 2022.**

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[ACT Now: Policy and Communications Internship for Summer 2022](#)

We are continuing to accept applications for our **Policy and Communications Internship for Summer 2022**. This is a full-time internship opportunity. We hope to offer an in-person internship this summer if it is safe to do so. However, ACT Now will consider a remote internship opportunity. We are also providing a stipend for this internship. **Applications are due Monday, April 4, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. CST.**

[Girls Who Code Summer Program Application is Extended!](#)

[Girls Who Code](#) will continue to accept applications for its FREE Summer Immersion Program (SIP) and Self-Paced Program until **Friday, March 25, 2022**. Interested students may also apply for a need-based grant up to \$500 plus tech access to help them get wired up for SIP.

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[Freedom School Request for Proposals is LIVE!](#)

The [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) has released its Request for Proposals (RFP) for the [Phillip Jackson Freedom Schools Grant](#). This grant will establish a Freedom School network to supplement the learning taking place in public schools by creating out-of-school time (OST) programs using a research-based and multicultural curriculum for disenfranchised communities most affected by the opportunity gap and learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Programming will also expand the teaching of African American history, developing leadership skills, and providing an understanding of the tenets of the civil rights movement. **Proposals are due April 29, 2022, by 4:30 p.m.**

[Invest for Kids Grant Opportunity](#)

[Invest for Kids](#) works to support youth in underserved communities across the city of Chicago. The organization is now accepting grant applications from other Chicago-based organizations with budgets between \$1 and \$5 million

who provide education, mentoring, enrichment, and social services to youth in under-resourced communities. **Applications are due April 30, 2022.**

Professional Development

[Professional Growth Grant!](#)

[YNPN Chicago](#) will be providing individuals with a small grant to help them enhance their professional development and to make a positive impact within the Chicago nonprofit community. Grant amounts may vary with a maximum of \$500. **Applications are due April 1, 2022.**

For an archive of our previously listed Funding Opportunities, [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 (Youth Development Associate)
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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