

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[CDC Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster for Children](#)

On **May 18, 2022**, the [Centers for Disease Prevention and Control \(CDC\)](#) announced that it had expanded eligibility for COVID-19 boosters to children ages five to eleven (5 to 11). The CDC highlighted that boosters are recommended five months after the first vaccination for this age group. This announcement was later endorsed by the [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#) as a strategy for maintaining children's health and safety during the ongoing pandemic. To read IDPH's guidance, click [here](#).

State Updates

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

On **May 18, 2022**, the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) met for its monthly meeting. The Board meeting materials and future meeting dates are available, [here](#). The Board heard presentations on state assessments, 2021 final report card data, and ISBE's newest data dashboard on COVID-19 relief funding and district spending. ISBE board members decided against changing the current state assessment. Read Chalkbeat Chicago's article, [here](#). Then, the Board turned its focus towards discussing its strategic plan as it related to professional development and support for educators. In June, the agency will share out a final update on the strategic plan. Board members also discussed the inquiry into Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services (ODLSS). The Board then approved the May consent agenda and all items within the discussion and approval section, and reviewed upcoming board actions for June. **The next ISBE Board meeting will take place on June 15, 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
Professional Development	ACT Now	SEL Webinar #3: Integrating SEL with Classroom Learning		Recording
	ACT Now and ICOY	Teen REACH Quarterly Meeting #4	TODAY , from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Coalition for Community Schools and the U.S. Department of Education	Community Schools: An Evidence-based Whole Child Approach to Education	May 26, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	June Membership Exchange	June 28, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Teen REACH OST Summer Learning Series - Day 1: Program Handbook Development Workshop	June 26, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	For Teen REACH Providers REGISTER
	ACT Now and IDHS	Teen REACH OST Summer Learning Series - Day 2: eCornerstone & Business Objects	June 27, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	For Teen REACH Providers REGISTER
	ACT Now and ICOY	Teen REACH OST Summer Learning Series - Day 3: CBAT-O	June 28, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	For Teen REACH Providers REGISTER
	ACT Now	Teen REACH OST Summer Learning Series - Day 4: Core Service Breakouts	June 29, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	For Teen REACH Providers REGISTER
Youth Development	Center For Healing and Justice Through Sport	Introduction to Healing-Centered Sport	TOMORROW , at 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Administration	National AfterSchool Association	Addressing Workforce Shortage Webinar	TOMORROW , at 1:30 p.m.	REGISTER
Family and Community Partnerships	ShareMyLesson and American Federation of Teachers	Community Schools - Family Engagement and Social Justice	May 26, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment (IL-QPSA) Support

ACT Now's online self-assessment system, the IL-QPSA, has recently been experiencing some technical difficulties. We have heard that users try to access the system after having been granted access from their agency's Organization Admins. If you are a user that should have been sent an email from the IL-QPSA system prompting you to create a login and password, please follow the following detailed instructions below:

- Please note that Google Chrome works best
- In your browser settings, disable cookies/cache
- Use this link to access the system: <https://ilqpsa.actnowillinois.com/admin/login.html>
- Click 'Forgot Your Password?'
- When you try to set the password: does it indicate that it is a 'good' or 'strong' password?
- If the password is 'poor,' then it will not save. Try setting another password.
- Then, follow the necessary prompts between the system and your email account



Reach out to **Emma Vibber** (Quality and Professional Development Manager) at VibberE@actnowillinois.org if you still do not gain access.

[Planning for Summer 2023 Resources](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has developed a variety of resources for programs to leverage when planning for summer 2023. There are fact sheets, webinar recordings, and other resources available to make this summer the best one yet!

Youth Development

[Student Well-being Webinar Recording](#)

Recently, [eSchool News](#) hosted a webinar focusing on student well-being and strategies for supporting the social-emotional learning of youth. The recording is now available to providers for free.

Youth Perspectives on Designing Equitable Out-of-School-Time Programs

[The Wallace Foundation](#) developed a recent brief elevating young people's experiences in afterschool. It provides recommendations for designing equitable programs and is focused on understanding how young people from marginalized communities may experience out-of-school-time programming.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

Mental Health of Youth Is a Priority in State Legislatures

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has written an article highlighting the importance of afterschool in supporting students' mental well-being. The article also shares more information on how certain state governments are proposing legislation that protects and promotes mental health services for youth.

Chicago Public Schools Partners with Lady Gaga for Student Mental Wellness

Trigger Warning: This resource talks about self-harm and suicide prevention

[Chalkbeat Chicago](#) wrote an article detailing the partnership between Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and Lady Gaga's foundation to increase support services for student mental health. The school district saw high rates of anxiety, depression, self harm, and suicide during the pandemic and is allocating approximately \$24,000 from federal COVID-19 relief funding to launch the Please Stay campaign. Students will be able to access peer-to-peer supports and professional services as well.

Four Strategies for Educators for Discussing Race-Based Violence

[EducationWeek](#) has published an article with some strategies for discussing current events as they relate to race-based violence. The strategies will help providers share information in a trauma-informed way and provide space for students to process these incidents.

Family and Community Partnerships

Leveraging AmeriCorps Volunteers in Afterschool Programming

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has a blog post with examples of afterschool providers that have hired AmeriCorps volunteers to help facilitate or expand programming. AmeriCorps continues to be a great opportunity for programs that are confronting staff shortages.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[National STEM Survey for OST Programs](#)

The [National Girls Collaborative Project](#) (NGCP) is administering a survey to investigate its reach and impact as it relates to STEM resources, professional development offerings, and more. Responses are confidential and reported in aggregate. We are asking all individuals who have been involved with NGCP in any way to please respond. **The survey will close June 17, 2022.** Contact Brenda Britsch at bbritsch@ngcproject.org with any questions.

Professional Development

[Trevor Project's Ally Training for Educators](#)

The [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) and the [Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library](#) are hosting a virtual presentation of the [Trevor Project's Ally Training](#) on **June 27, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.** This professional development provides a basic framework of understanding of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) people and the unique challenges they often face. Attendees will learn best practices for how we can create safer and more supportive environments for LGBTQ students. Through targeted activities, participants will explore their own biases, build knowledge and understanding, and develop empathy.

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[Chicago Public Schools Dream Fund Scholarship](#)

The [Chicago Public Schools \(CPS\)](#) Dream Fund Scholarship is available to CPS High School Seniors and CPS Alums. This opportunity will provide financial support for students looking to pursue post-secondary education degrees and experiences. **The deadline to apply is Friday, May 27, 2022.** Please visit cps.academicworks.com for application details.

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[USAID Youth Excel: Our Knowledge Leading Change Program Grant](#)

[The United States Agency for International Development \(USAID\)](#) and [Youth Excel](#) are soliciting applications from local youth-led organizations for a new grant opportunity. In today's world of rising inequalities and tensions fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and other pressures, youth-led, inclusive approaches are essential for advancing peace and security. Eligible organizations will use the funding to build cohesion across social groups and generations. **Submissions are due June 6, 2022.**

[Grants for Art Projects Opportunity](#)

[The National Endowment for the Arts](#) is encouraging arts-based organizations to apply for a grant to support programming. Within arts education, proposals are accepted in the following categories:

- Collective impact projects that transform schools and communities by providing access and engagement in the arts for all students through collective, systemic approaches.
- Direct learning projects that support arts instructions for students prekindergarten through grade 12, that result in increased knowledge and skills in the arts.
- Professional development projects for classroom teachers, arts specialists, teaching artists, school and district administrators, community leaders, and other educators.

Applications are due **July 7, 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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