

ACTNOW! NEWSLETTER

Happy National Summer Learning Week!

National Summer Learning Week (July 12, 2021, to July 16, 2021) is THIS WEEK! We are so excited to be celebrating all of the amazing work our summer learning providers are doing in support of young people across Illinois. Please join us in elevating your experiences and stories by utilizing our [toolkit](#). There are activities that cover a variety of topics and they can be facilitated in a hybrid environment. You can also find some summer learning spotlights on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) platforms! [#ACTNow4SummerLearning](#) [#SummerMatters](#)

Don't forget! SEND OUR **ACTION ALERT** TO LEGISLATORS...It takes 1 minute!



Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[U.S. House Labor, Health, and Human Services Subcommittee: Increase to 21st Century Line Proposed!](#)

On **July 12, 2021**, the U.S. House Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education Subcommittee (LHHS-ED) proposed a \$100 million increase to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st Century)

funding line. This is \$50 million more than President Biden's proposed FY22 budget for 21st Century. The U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate will not vote on the FY2022 spending bill. [Urge your legislators to vote yes!](#)

State Updates

[Illinois Department of Public Health: Updated School Guidance after CDC Announcement](#)

On **July 9, 2021**, the [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#) announced that the state of Illinois will adopt the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated [guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten \(K\)-12 Schools](#) released earlier in the day. The updated school guidance now aligns with guidance for [fully vaccinated people](#), which allows activities to resume for fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask except where required by federal, state, and local rules and regulations.

- **Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated.**
- **CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk.** When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking.
- **Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.**

[Chalkbeat Chicago: Chicago Public Schools to Open Three COVID-19 Vaccine Sites](#)

On **July 7, 2021**, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) announced that the school district will be hosting three COVID-19 vaccination sites for youth vaccinations starting this week. The locations include Chicago Vocational Career Academy in Avalon Park, Michele Clark High School in Austin, and Theodore Roosevelt High School in Albany Park. **Each site will be open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. during the summer.** At those three locations, CPS aims to administer up to 600 first doses of the vaccine each week. Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) [proposed](#) that the school district to vaccinate 80% of students over 12 years old by **October 1, 2021**, utilizing a strategy of home visits and vaccine clinics on school grounds.

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
Administration	Afterschool Alliance	Tapping into ARP State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Support Afterschool and Summer Learning	July 7, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Youth Development	Mizzen by MOTT	Summer Lawn Series: Live Jazz Music	July 25, 2021 August 8, 2021	REGISTER

			from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	
Professional Development	Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)	College Changes Everything Virtual Conference *ACT Now presented yesterday!	July 12, 2021, to July 16, 2021	REGISTER
	Forefront	Ask a Consultant: Relationship Building and Leveraging Partnerships	July 21, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics	Conference: "The New Normal: New Ideas for a New Year"	August 7, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Ed Leaders Network	From COVID to Calm: How to Cultivate Resilience in the Face of Uncertainty	August 10, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Youth Today Article: Students Disappeared during the Pandemic - Community Organizations are Helping Find Them](#)

Our good friend and Afterschool Ambassador for Illinois, Teresa Dothard-Campbell, Site Coordinator at Glenview Middle School, was featured in a Youth Today article. The resource highlights the ways in which her afterschool and summer programs are engaging youth and families!

[Learning Policy Institute Fact Sheet: Investing in Community Schools: How States and Districts Can Use Federal Recovery Funds Strategically](#)

[The Learning Policy Institute](#) recently published a new fact sheet making the case for Community Schools. This resource may be used to advocate for the expansion of current partnerships with school districts or the establishment of a community school utilizing federal COVID-19 aid!

Youth Development

[eSchool News Article: 3 Familiar Tools that Enable Trauma-Informed Teaching](#)

[eSchool News](#) has a brief article elevating three tools that afterschool providers may utilize in hybrid programming to engage youth in a trauma-informed manner. These strategies build upon applications and platforms that young people may be familiar with already!

Family and Community Partnerships

[Illinois State Board of Education: Parent Mentor Program RFP Application](#)

The [Parent Engagement Institute](#) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for community organizations in Illinois that would like to partner with their local public schools to start up a Parent Mentor Program during the 2021-22 school year. The RFP is designed for community organizations to apply in partnership with their local public schools. The anticipated award amount for starting a full-year Parent Mentor Program in two schools with 16 total parent mentors is \$75,000. If you have any questions about the RFP, please email parentmentorproposals@gmail.com. **The application deadline is August 2, 2021.**

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

Opportunities for Providers

Youth Development

[Museum of Science and Industry: Summer Brain Games and FREE Admission!](#)

[The Museum of Science and Industry \(MSI\)](#) has released its 2021 Summer Brain Games! These games allow youth to participate in engaging science-based art activities and include: developing a flip book, using bubbles to create art, making your own paper and more. It's a great way for families with kids of all ages to stay active during the summer and play together. Activities use everyday items and have easy instructions in English and Spanish. **MSI is also for a limited time giving away free tickets to visit the Museum after signing up for the Summer Brain Games program!**

Professional Development

[Illinois State Board of Education: Free Professional Learning Series for Kindergarten Educators](#)

[The Illinois Stated Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) and the [Erikson Institute](#) have partnered in order to provide professional development opportunities for kindergarten teachers across Illinois. Project Connect will allow teachers will earn professional development hours and get practical resources for their classroom while learning new ways to assess and address the needs of the "whole child."

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Illinois Department of Public Health: Community Partner Vaccination Clinic Opportunity](#)

[The Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#) is continuing to solicit applications from afterschool and summer learning providers for its Community Partner Vaccination Clinic initiative. Please review the attached [FAQ document](#) for more information and then submit the [application](#). **There is no deadline for the application process at this time.**

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[Chicago Park District and My CHI. My Future.: Summer Kickback Series!](#)

[The Chicago Park District](#) and [My CHI. My Future.](#) are kicking off the Summer Kickback Series (SKB) which includes weekly events for teens every Friday evening **between July 9, 2021, and August 27, 2021**, in 15 communities across Chicago. These events are led by local community organizations who also received funding to hire at least 12 youth to plan and promote these events. The weekly events are designed as hangouts with the activities determined by the organizations, their youth, and their partners!

[Family Matters: 2021 Justice Ride](#)

[Family Matters](#) is hosting a 2021 Justice Ride on **July 17, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.** for youth in the City of Chicago. The Justice Ride is a youth-centered 15-mile community bike ride for people 12 years and older. There are planned stops along the way to allow participants to explore themes of Transformative Justice.

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[William T. Grant Foundation: Institutional Challenge Grant Opportunity](#)

[The William T. Grant Foundation](#) is soliciting applications for its Institutional Challenge Grant program. This opportunity encourages university-based research institutes, schools, and centers to build sustained research-practice partnerships with public agencies or nonprofit organizations in order to reduce inequality in youth outcomes. **Applications are due by September 14, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. CDT.** Eligibility and instructions reflect the type of entity that is applying.

[The National Informal STEM Education Network: Funding for STEM Professional Development](#)

[The National Informal STEM Education Network \(NISE Network\)](#) is hosting a funded opportunity to participate in a project-based professional learning community focused on making Earth & Space science relevant and inclusive for youth in your program or community. Eligible organizations are existing NISE Network partners who have previously received at least one [Explore Science: Earth & Space toolkit \(2017-2020\)](#). **Applications are due August 1, 2021.**

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

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One North Dearborn, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60602 | Tel: [312.877.0725](tel:312.877.0725)

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