

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Policy Updates

ACT Now's Sign On Letter: Chicago Public Schools Reopening Framework

Last week, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) released its preliminary framework for reopening in the Fall to the public and solicited feedback on the plan. To review the framework in English, click [here](#). To read the framework in Spanish, click [here](#). All comments must be submitted by July 31, 2020. **In response, ACT Now has written a Sign On Letter to comment on specific aspects of the plan and advocate in support of afterschool and summer learning providers.** To read the letter, click [here](#). To sign the letter in solidarity with ACT Now, click [here](#).

Illinois State Board of Education: Fall 2020 Learning Recommendations

On **July 23, 2020**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released its Fall 2020 Learning Recommendations. ISBE asks that all remote learning days have 5 hours of instruction and/or school work, including 2.5 hours of synchronous learning. ISBE again reiterated emphasizing in-person instruction for special education, english learners, and youth under the age of 13. School districts should consider unfinished learning and learning loss from the previous school year in creating their plans and collaborate between subjects and grade levels to minimize gaps in learning. The plan specifically mentioned that afterschool activities should support gaps in learning. Other recommendations included ensuring all students have the materials needed to succeed, considering the child's whole needs, and conducting constant check-ins with students and their

families. The plan also breaks down specific grade level recommendations. To review ISBE's recommendations, click [here](#).

Governor Pritzker's Office: Governor Pritzker Announces Notice of Funding Opportunity for Community Organizations for COVID-19 Contact Tracing Efforts

On **July 22 2020**, Governor Pritzker announced that in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) that the state will award a grant to one community-based organization (CBO) in each of the nine regions referenced in the Governor's COVID-19 Resurgence Mitigation Plan. The goal is for Cook County and the City of Chicago to develop their own contact tracing programs with CBOs. The nine organizations will serve as coordinators in their region, awarding sub-grants to CBOs who can most effectively conduct tracing, education, and outreach in their communities. The NOFO is available on the IDPH website [here](#). To review the entire press release, click [here](#).

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Administration

ACT Now Webinar: Reopening Schools and Afterschool Part II

After hosting an in-depth and well-attended webinar on ISBE'S Reopening Plan and how it affects afterschool, **ACT Now** has decided to continue this series for Out-of-School Time providers interested in hearing more from colleagues in the field. On **August 4, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, join us and:

- Listen to programs as they share their plans in order to reopen and hear about some of the challenges they are navigating.
- Gain insight into how diverse afterschool programs are engaging with school districts, families, and community members, to resume programming.

There will also be time allotted for Questions! To register for the event, click [here](#).

K-12 Zoom Academy: Professional Development Opportunity for Educators and Afterschool Providers

Zoom is hosting a free two-day virtual professional development event that brings together thought leaders and practitioners in K-12 to inspire and empower people to feel prepared and conduct remote, in-person, or blended learning experiences for youth in fall 2020. The K-12 Zoom academy begins on **July 29, 2020**. To register for the training and review the schedule, click [here](#).

National Summer Learning Association: Upcoming Webinars for Providers

On **July 29, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.**, the National Summer learning Association (NSLA) will be hosting a webinar to discuss strategies for preventing burn out in the non-profit world. To learn more about the webinar and to register, click [here](#). On **September 3, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.**, join the NSLA for a webinar on fundraising during the pandemic. Discuss what is "appropriate" regarding fundraising in unprecedented times. To register for the event, click [here](#).

Afterschool Alliance: Webinars on the Importance of Afterschool and Afterschool Partnerships with School Districts

The Afterschool Alliance is hosting two webinars in order to help afterschool providers prepare to reopen this fall and to form critical partnerships with states and school districts. On **July 30, 2020, at 11:00 a.m.**, join the Alliance for a discussion on ensuring afterschool programs are included in reopening guidance nationwide. To register for this event, click [here](#). On **August 4, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.**, the Alliance is hosting a webinar on specific tools that afterschool programs can use to foster relationships with local and state education administrators to make the case for Out-of-School Time programming. To register, click [here](#).

College Changes Everything 2020 Conference: Live Event Added

The College Changes Everything (CCE) 2020 Conference released a new live event on developing collaborative partners for engaging and supporting youth in work-based learning programs. The event will take place on **July 31, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.** To register for the event, click [here](#). To review the other Conference opportunities, click [here](#).

Transforming School Discipline Collaborative: Reimagining Community in the Return to School

The Transforming School Discipline Collaborative is hosting a Virtual Convening on **August 4, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** to address the current issues and climate in Illinois around returning to school in Fall 2020. The virtual convening will provide a space for conversation, building knowledge, and building community. To review the events, click [here](#).

Youth Development

The Summer Activity Guide: Webinar Opportunities

The Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) is hosting two webinar events to answer questions regarding the Summer Activity Guide and how to use this resource in Fall programming. On **July 30, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.**, join GSAN for a chance to dive deeper into the Summer Activity Guide. To register for the webinar, click [here](#). On **August 13, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.**, GSAN will provide an overview of the Guide and then discuss how it can be integrated into programming for the Fall. To register, click [here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development

The Summer Activity Guide: Final Unit LIVE!

The final unit of the Summer Activity Guide, titled "Exploring My World," is now live and pushes participants to:

- Think about the assets and opportunities in their communities
- Explore diverse cultures from all over the world
- Compare and contrast the ways young people learn
- Discuss issues that permeate countries' borders and affect communities in order to brainstorm solutions

To access these guides and all supporting materials, click [here](#). *Note: Unit 1 has been translated into Spanish and you can access them via our website.

The Learning Policy Institute Blog Post: Leveraging Community Schools

The Learning Policy Institute (LPI) has published a new blog post about how counties are leveraging Community Schools to meet the diverse needs of communities across the nation. To read the full post, click [here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

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

Youth Opportunities

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

Funding Opportunities

Administration

Impact 100 Chicago: Grant Cycle for Community-Based Organizations Open Soon

Impact 100 Chicago will open its latest grant cycle online on **August 17, 2020**, and is seeking Letters of Inquiry from community-based organizations working in one of five focus areas: Family, Education, Health & Wellness, Environment, and Arts & Culture. For more information on the grant opportunity and eligibility, click [here](#).

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 (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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