

ACT NOW!

NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Updates

[Chalkbeat Article: Chicago Public Schools Mandates Full Vaccination Status of School Personnel by October 15](#)

On **August 13, 2021**, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) announced that the **district will require all school administrators and educators to be fully vaccinated by October 15, 2021, unless these individuals require a medical or religious exemption.** School-based teachers and staff, central office, regular vendors, and network personnel who aren't fully vaccinated or can't provide documentation of an exemption by October 15th, will be ineligible to work for the district until they submit proof of vaccination or exemption. The decision reflects concerns for the safety of students and staff due to the emergence of the Delta variant.

[Governor JB Pritzker's Office: Extension of Nutrition Benefits Program Announced](#)

On **August 12, 2021**, Governor JB Pritzker shared that the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) has **extended the deadline for Illinois families to apply for nutrition benefits until August 31, 2021.** This change is due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. These benefits apply to households with school-aged children who were eligible for free or reduced meals from March 2020 through June 2020 when schools were operating remotely. Those who did not receive SNAP benefits last spring are able to submit a simplified application for P-EBT now.

[Governor JB Pritzker's Office: Mask Mandate for Students, Educators, and Staff in Schools and Daycare Programs](#)

On **August 4, 2021**, Governor JB Pritzker announced that **masks will be required for students, teachers, and staff at pre-school, and kindergarten through 12th grade schools and daycare sites across the state. The new requirement formalizes [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance](#) released in July on universal masking for both unvaccinated and vaccinated people in schools to ensure a safe return to classrooms.** Governor JB Pritzker also announced his intent to require all state employees working in congregate facilities to receive the COVID-19 vaccine by **October 4, 2021.**

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	ACT Now	Teen REACH Quarterly Meeting #1	August 24, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Teen REACH Quality Standards Training 101	August 25, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Membership Engagement Exchange: Creative Creatures: Using Improvisation (Improv) to Increase Student Engagement	September 8, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
Family and Community Partnerships	Chicago Public Schools	Back to School Family Town Halls / Ayuntamientos de Familias para regreso a clases	TONIGHT at 6:00 p.m. August 18, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. (SPANISH) August 19, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Forefront	Toward Racial Equity: A Conversation with the Communities of Illinois	September 21, 2021, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Shriver Center on Poverty Law	Real Change for Communities of Color	October 7, 2021, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	REGISTER
Youth Development	Afterschool Alliance	America After 3PM: STEM Learning on the Rise	August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	The Walking Classroom	Fun, in-person, socially distanced (or remote) learning with The Walking Classroom	September 1, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois AfterSchool Network	Professional Development Round Table: Multiplying Good	September 27, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.	REGISTER

Safety, Health, and Nutrition	Illinois AfterSchool Network	Professional Development Round Table: Safe2Help Illinois	September 24, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.	REGISTER
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For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, click [here](#).

Resources for Providers

Administration

[ACT Now Webinar: Creating Afterschool and Partnerships to Support Students Learning](#)

The [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) recently announced that it will be awarding ESSER III afterschool and summer learning funding DIRECTLY to school districts. To review ISBE's ESSER III allocations, click [here](#). In response, along with the [Illinois Principals Association](#) we are hosting a second webinar for school administrators in order to encourage collaboration between schools and community-based organizations for afterschool and summer learning opportunities. Join us on **August 26, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, to hear from school districts that have plans to operate programming in conjunction with out-of-school time providers, and MORE! **INVITE your local school partners to participate in these webinars by using** our flyer [HERE!](#) If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Susan Stanton (Network Lead) at stantons@actnowillinois.org.

[ShareMyLesson: Classroom Management Resources](#)

[ShareMyLesson](#) has compiled a variety of resources relating to classroom management for educators and afterschool providers. These strategies can be applied in hybrid and in-person environments and align with the social-emotional needs of youth.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Illinois Department of Public Health and Illinois State Board of Education: COVID-19 School Guidance FAQs](#)

The [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#) and [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) have released joint COVID-19 School Guidance FAQs to help Preschool to Grade 12 school administrators and program providers select appropriate, layered prevention strategies in order to keep in-person learning

environments safe for students and staff during times of fluctuating transmission. This guidance also applies to child care workers and programs.

Youth Development

[Girls Who Code: Community Partners Resources](#)

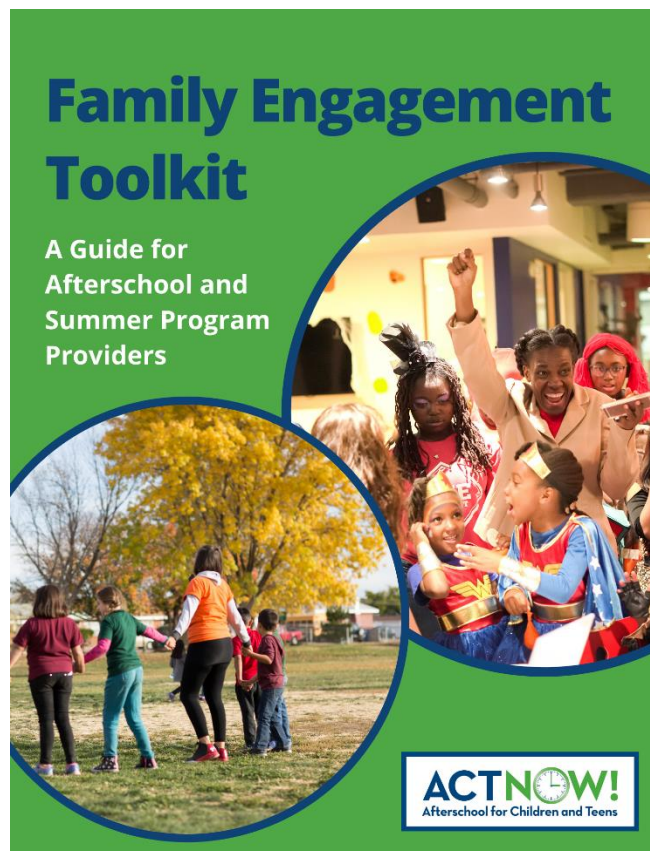
[Girls Who Code \(GWC\)](#) has developed a toolkit with relevant resources for engaging families in youth in the organization's GWC Clubs and STEM programming. Resources include sample newsletter copy, social media content, and more!

[Afterschool Alliance: COVID-19 Survey Wave 5 Data Released](#)

The Afterschool Alliance has released survey data from Wave 5 of its COVID-19 survey which highlights key insights from the second summer during the ongoing pandemic. This information was collected before the rise of the delta variant. Thank you to all those that participated in this survey as we gain a better understanding of what programming looks like throughout summer 2021.

Family and Community Partnerships

[Navigating Family Engagement: ACT Now's Toolkit, Tips, and Tricks](#)



Yesterday, ACT Now unveiled our newest FREE resource, the Family Engagement Toolkit, during a live walkthrough of the tool. This resource will help program providers navigate the family engagement process, regardless of their starting point. We seek to ensure that programs are inclusive, accessible, and welcoming for all families!

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

Metropolitan Family Services: Community Schools Resource Coordinator Opportunities

Our friends at [Metropolitan Family Services \(MFS\)](#) are soliciting applications for two Community Schools Resource Coordinator positions. For more information on Community Schools, check out our [Community Schools Corner!](#)

- [Community Schools Resource Coordinator - Kennedy High School](#) (Chicago, IL)
- [Community Schools Resource Coordinator - Dawes Elementary School](#) (Chicago, IL)

Professional Development



[September ACT Now Member Exchange!](#)

After a successful first Membership Exchange, we will be facilitating **Creative Creatures: Using Improvisation (Improv) to Increase Student Engagement**, virtually on **Wednesday, September 8, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** The Rules of Improv are well known tactics in the performance arena and are often used to engage and entertain audience members. In addition, these ubiquitous rules can be incorporated into afterschool programming to elevate student engagement and create a playful and inclusive environment. ACT Now will share expert advice and specific activities from a former Chicago OST theatre teacher on how to weave classic improv techniques into your program. We'll see you at The Exchange! For questions, please contact Lesley Fisher Chapman (ACT Now Program Coordinator) at chapmanl@actnowillinois.org.

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

Youth Opportunities

Administration

[ACT Now: Policy and Communications Internship for Fall 2021](#)

We are seeking applicants for our Policy and Communications Internship for Fall 2021. As our intern, you will have the opportunity to assist in ACT Now's federal and state policy initiatives and communications work. Applicants should have excellent communications skills, a strong work ethic, and a background in government relations, public policy, or social work. Applicants must have also completed at least their sophomore year in their undergraduate institution and be able to work **part time for a minimum of 10 weeks** at ACT Now. Applications are due to Emma Spencer at SpencerE@actnowillinois.org by **Monday, September 6, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. CDT.**

[Hispanic Heritage Foundation: Youth Awards](#)

[The Hispanic Heritage Foundation](#) is soliciting applications for its Youth Awards that honor Latino high school seniors who excel in the classroom and community and for their excellence in various categories including: Business & Finances, Community Service, Entrepreneurship, Education, Healthcare & Science, Media & Entertainment, Public Service, Social Justice, and Technology. Awardees will participate in conferences and receive financial compensation. **Applications are due November 14, 2021.**

Youth Development

[Chicago Youth Centers: Summer Kickback Basketball Tournament](#)

[Chicago Youth Centers \(CYC\)](#) will host a 5 on 5 basketball tournament as part of the [Summer Kickback Series](#) this **Friday, August 20, 2021, in North Lawndale from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Come out to Douglas Park to play some basketball, get some free food, and win prizes!

[Chicago Parks District: Night Out in the Parks Events](#)

Celebrate summer, community, and the arts with Night Out in the Parks! [The Chicago Parks District](#) is hosting a variety of performances, music, and more for youth and families throughout the month of August and into September.

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[NEA Foundation: Envision Equity Grant Opportunity](#)

[The NEA Foundation](#) is soliciting grant applications for its Envision Equity Grant program. This initiative aims to enable educators to test creative new ideas and innovations, demonstrating exemplary teaching and learning. The program also supports project-based learning and helps educators to advance students' cultural understanding and appreciation, anti-racism commitments, and understanding of civic

engagement and democracy. Envision Equity grants will fund projects between \$1,500 and \$5,000.
Applications are due October 15, 2021.

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

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