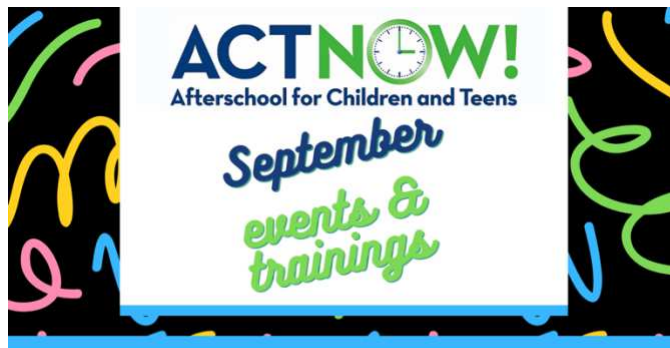


# ACTNOW!

## NEWSLETTER



**9/17**

Illinois Quality Program  
Self-Assessment  
(IL-QPSA) Sneak Peek

**9/23**

Downstate Community  
Schools Convening

**9/24**

STEM Webinar #1:  
Teaching About the Public  
Health Crisis in OST

**9/30**

NBA Math Hoops Training



### ACT Now Blog

During her time with ACT Now, our intern Adriana Rodriguez-Ruiz wrote a blog post describing the diverse reopening plans from school districts

around the United States, and here in Illinois. To read the blog post, click [here](#).

## Policy Updates

### State Policy Updates

#### Illinois State Board of Education: August Board Meeting Recap

On **August 19, 2020**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) met for its monthly meeting. For a copy of the Board materials and the meeting recording, click [here](#). Susan Stanton, ACT Now Network Lead, provided public comment on the relationship between reopening schools and afterschool programs. To read ACT Now's sign on letter for this issue, click [here](#). At the meeting, the Board clarified that for this school year school districts will only be reimbursed by USDA for those students that qualify for free and reduced price lunches and that previous flexibility to feed additional students will not be extended. The Board heard from a panel of superintendents about their reopening experiences. The superintendent in Springfield specifically called out the importance of working with afterschool programs, community-based organizations, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers in her presentation. ISBE will vote on the release of the After School Programs RFP in September, and this year non-district applicants will *NOT* have to serve 100 students in order to qualify. The Board also discussed that this year's budget hearings will all be held in October and be held virtually. For information about upcoming board meetings, click [here](#).

#### Illinois State Board of Education: Priority Learning Standards for 2020-2021 School Year Released

On **August 18, 2020**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released its Priority Learning Standards for the 2020-2021 School Year. The standards include topics of: social emotional learning (SEL), English/Language Arts, English Language Learning, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Fine Arts, and more. The standards are meant to be a starting point for collaborative planning and discourse in local school districts and emphasizes the nontraditional nature of the school year. The document also highlights the importance of these themes in relation to the ongoing public health crisis. To read the standards, click [here](#).

#### Chicago Public Schools: Final Reopening Framework Issued

On **August 18, 2020**, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) issued its [Final Reopening Framework](#) for the 2020-2021 School Year. Students will learn remotely through the first quarter. This is in response to the CPS parent survey where the majority of parents said they would not send their children back to school or they were not sure if they would send their students back to school. Parents cited health concerns for these decisions. CPS will be issuing additional resources and guidance to help assist parents in this transition in the coming weeks. CPS also released its [Remote Learning Guidance](#). CPS will have 6 hours of learning for each student each day with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning. CPS also has plans to ensure all students have a device and internet access. Students are encouraged to use their webcams and teachers are required to do so. The plan also includes a list of synchronous and asynchronous learning approved apps and extensions instructors can use. Additional guidance is forthcoming about how "non-teachers" fit into the reopening plan. The plan also includes a variety of SEL resources, lesson plans, and examples for how to incorporate SEL into daily activities.

#### **Illinois Department of Public Health: Guidance for Pre-K-12 Schools and Day Care Programs and Support Materials Published**

On **August 18, 2020**, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) released two pieces of guidance and support materials for educators, afterschool programs, and child care providers to adhere by. To access IDPH's Guidance for Pre-K-12 Schools and Day Care Programs for Addressing COVID-19, click [here](#). IDPH also published a Decision Tree document for school and program administrators that clearly lays out the procedures for when students or staff test positive for COVID-19 or show COVID-19 symptoms. To review the Decision Tree for Symptomatic Individuals in Pre-K, K-12 Schools, and Day Care Programs, click [here](#). For more information on both of these documents, click [here](#).

#### **Illinois Department of Children and Family Services: Restore Illinois Licensed Day Care Guidance and License Exempt School-Age Guidance Announced**

On **August 17, 2020**, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) announced guidance for licensed day care providers and license-exempt providers looking to provide care for children and school-age youth. The guidance states the following:

- **License exempt programs providing services for school-age children *may operate during remote learning days as determined by their local school district***. However, no license exempt program is permitted to serve a school-age child during the school day if that child

is enrolled in a school district that is requiring in-person instruction on that day.

To read the full guidance, click [here](#).

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

## Trainings, Events and Webinars

### Administration

#### **ACT Now Webinar: Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment Tool (IL-QPSA) Sneak Peek**

The Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment (IL-QPSA) is an online strengths-based self-assessment tool that allows individual out-of-school time (OST) providers the opportunity to self-assess on their performance based on the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards. **ACT Now** and a team of stakeholders from around the state created the Tool and Standards to identify areas of strength and areas for improvement, and to engage in conversations about quality and promoting continuous quality improvement. To learn more, view the Pledge to Quality [here](#).

**Join us for a sneak peek webinar to walk you through the tool, as well as the assessment process!** This webinar will be hosted on **September 17, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. CT**. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

#### **ACT Now Convening: Downstate Community Schools Providers**

On **September 23, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, **ACT Now** will be hosting a convening for Downstate Community Schools providers. *Please stay turned for more information regarding the event and the registration link!*

#### **Illinois State Board of Education: Illinois Priority Learning Standards (ILPS) for the 2020-21 School Year**

On **August 26, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is hosting a webinar for Regional Offices of Education (ROE) administrators to learn about the development and implementation of the ILPS for the 2020-21 school year. Attendees will learn about best practices and have an opportunity to begin developing their plan for

supporting districts in implementation of the ILPS. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

### **Coalition of Black Excellence Webinar: Where STEM Meets Social Justice**

On **August 26, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.**, the Coalition of Black Excellence is hosting a webinar on how to use STEM curricula and programming to bring innovative methods tackling social and racial disparities in the workplace, in our communities, and in the afterschool space. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

### **National Summer Learning Association Webinar: Fundraising During COVID-19**

On **September 3, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.**, the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) is hosting a webinar on fundraising during the public health crisis. Join the NSLA's featured speaker Nanette Fridman to discuss how to reassess your fundraising strategy and refine your message in the context of COVID-19. To register for the event, click [here](#).

## **Youth Development**

### **ACT Now Training: NBA Math Hoops**

The NBA Math Hoops program harnesses the competitive fun of a board game in the culturally relevant context of the NBA in order to both develop the cognitive skills of basic arithmetic, decision-making, and visual analysis while simultaneously developing students' intrinsic interest in the real world application of math. On **September 30, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, **ACT Now** will be holding a workshop to teach afterschool providers how they can implement NBA Math Hoops in their own programs. Participants will receive free access to NBA Math Hoops materials. To register for this event, click [here](#).

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

## **Resources for Providers**

## Administration

### Illinois State Board of Education: COVID-19 Response Resources

**Last week**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) shared an FAQ, developed by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), with some supplementary information to respond to questions the agency has received since the release of the [Joint Transition Guidance for Starting the 2020-21 School Year](#). This week, ISBE is sharing with educators, community-based organizations (CBOs), afterschool providers, families and youth some resources in the case that communities see a spike in COVID-19 cases:

- **Supportive guidance** for local public health departments regarding how to use an “adaptive pause” for local schools and additional mitigation strategies based on local public health metrics.
- **A memo to medical professionals** describing how to determine when a student is medically unable to wear a face covering.

### National Summer Learning Association: Summer Learning - A Bridge to Student Success and America’s Recovery, a COVID-19 PLAYBOOK

The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) and its partners have developed a playbook for afterschool and expanded learning providers in order to help frame Out-of-School Time (OST) as being an integral support for youth and communities as we begin to recover from the pandemic. The playbook hosts a long-term, comprehensive, and sustainable framework for planning, collaborating, and executing evidence-based practices and partnerships for high-quality summer and OST opportunities. The playbook also includes resources, tools, and guidance from NSLA. To access this document, click [here](#).

## Youth Development

### Illinois State Board of Education and The Illinois Inclusive Curriculum Advisory Council (IICAC): LGBTQ Inclusive Curricula

In **August 2019**, Governor Pritzker signed [Public Act 101-0227](#), which is widely known as the [LGBTQ Inclusive Curriculum Bill](#). The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Inclusive Curriculum Advisory Council (IICAC) have highlighted the [The Legacy Project’s Lesson Plans](#) as a great tool to support educators and afterschool providers with the implementation of the Inclusive Curriculum Law.

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

## Opportunities for Providers

### Gary Comer Youth Center: Seeking Youth Counseling Manager

The Gary Comer Youth Center (GCYC) offers young people extracurricular alternatives in a welcoming and safe environment and is located on Chicago's South Side. GCYC is seeking a dynamic leader to serve as its Youth Counseling Manager. Some requisite for applying include: Master's degree in social work or related field, Clinical licensure such as LCSW or LCPC preferred, and three years of more of professional experience providing instruction or social emotional supports to youth and families. To review the full job posting, click [here](#).

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

## Youth Opportunities

### FEM STEM BAHAMAS Webinar Series: High School Edition

FEM STEM BAHAMAS is hosting a webinar series for young people in high school interested in interacting with STEM Professionals across the spectrum and hear about their experiences. **Beginning on August 26, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., and spanning until August 29, 2020**, attendees will receive advice and tips on how to break into the industry, and hear about and explore college opportunities related to STEM. The sessions will cover STEM-related topics, including: Gaming & App Development, Cosmetic Chemistry, Data Analytics, Fiduciary, FinTech, Robotics & Space, Aeronautics, Meteorology, Civil Engineering, Software Development, Maritime and more. To review the full webinar series and register, click [here](#).

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

## Funding Opportunities

## Administration

### Chicago Department of Public Health: Building a Network of Trauma-Informed Centers of Care RFP

The Chicago Department of Public Health has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), and community-based organizations (CBOs) to expand access to high-quality, trauma-informed mental health services in communities of high need. The \$6.5 million fund will be allocated to up to 25 of these entities. Applications are due by **September 14, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.** For more details on the RFP, to access the portal for providers that were not able to attend the virtual bidders conference on August 19, 2020, and to apply, click [here](#). Questions about this funding opportunity can be submitted through ISupplier. Interested parties can establish an ISupplier profile [here](#).

## Youth Development

### Chicago Board of Education: Request for Information - Remote Learning Supervision for Children of Essential Workers and High Hardship Index Students

The Chicago Board of Education is soliciting responses for its Request for Information (RFI) on Remote Learning Supervision for Children of Essential Workers and High Hardship Index Students. To review the full RFI, click [here](#). **Instructions:** Please make sure to click on the “Contracting Opportunities” tab at the left of the page. Then click on “Current Opportunities Open to the Public,” and select **Spec # 20-350032**. Click on the date to complete the form.

*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](mailto: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](#).**

[Unsubscribe](#)