



A statewide coalition that advocates for quality and affordable afterschool programs and community schools

RESOURCES GUIDE

ACT Now has created a variety of useful guides and tools. Click on the images and links in this guide to explore and discover more about all the ways ACT Now can help you and your program.

Just Getting Started?



Become a Member

The weekly newsletter provides the most up-to-date resources and information. Become a member by [signing up](#) to receive the newsletter.



Afterschool Map

The first statewide database for out-of-school time programs. Be sure to add your program to our map!



Startup Toolkit

A complete guide to starting your own afterschool program.

QUALITY STANDARDS

We developed statewide Quality Standards that capture practices that have been demonstrated, through research, to lead to quality programs and positive outcomes for children.



Quality Standards Guide

Need help navigating the Quality Standards? Sign up for our [Quality Standards 101 Training](#) to get personalized help and instruction.



Quality Standards Resource Guide

Resources, tips, activities, and reflection questions for each of the 30 standards.

IL-QPSA

The Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment

An easy-to-use tool that affords providers the opportunity to assess their program's performance based on the Quality Standards. Providers can:

- Receive free one-on-one technical assistance
- Capture and analyze data
- Automate surveys across program sites

[Register for the IL-QPSA here.](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Grow and advance your program and workforce with our data and research driven Professional Development (PD) tools.



SEL Webinar Series

Attend an upcoming webinar about the use of SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) in afterschool programs. Each webinar will feature a different topic. [To sign up or learn more, click here.](#) To access past webinars, click the above image.



Trauma-Informed Care Guidebook

A toolkit to assist in the planning and implementation of trauma-informed care practices in afterschool.



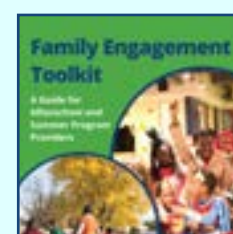
SEL Guidebook

A toolkit to assist in the planning and implementation of Social and Emotional Learning in afterschool.



College and Career Experiences in OST

A guidebook for afterschool providers to engage youth of all ages to begin thinking about their post-secondary education plans and explore future careers.



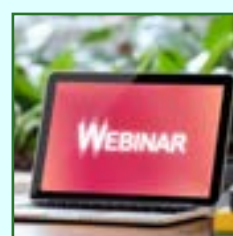
Family Engagement Toolkit

Designed to support providers include and integrate diverse families into their children's afterschool and summer experiences.

Curious about more specific opportunities? ACT Now can create and deliver personalized trainings fit for your organization's needs. Contact vibbere@actnowillinois.org for pricing and more information.

STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) are part of the fastest growing segment of the workforce. In order to ensure economic growth, to innovate, and to improve, we need to create equitable STEM opportunities for all youth.



STEM Webinar Series

Attend an upcoming webinar about using STEM concepts in afterschool programs. Each webinar will feature a different theme. [To sign up or learn more, click here.](#) To access past webinars, click the above image.



Afterschool STEM Guidebook

You do not have to have a STEM background or have access to an expensive lab. This guidebook includes resources on how to fund your program, gain PD opportunities, build a curriculum with activity recommendations, and ways in which you can advocate for policy change.



STEM Curricula Matrix

A full guide full of engaging STEM curricula to incorporate into any afterschool or out-of-school time programming.

Community Schools

Community Schools (CS) are public schools that partner with community-based organizations to offer a range of supports and opportunities to children, youth, families, and communities. While each CS is unique, they all share four key tenets:

- (1) Extended Learning (2) Integrated Family Supports (3) Family and Community Engagement (4) Shared Leadership



Community Schools in Illinois Report

A multi-year report on the impact of Community Schools across the state. Click on the image to access the report and a recording of a virtual discussion between CS providers themselves.



Community Schools Corner

The CS Corner on our website features a variety of resources for CS providers, including past webinars.



Community Schools Regional Meetings

Interested in connecting with other CS stakeholders? Join us for one of our quarterly regional meetings! Each meeting will feature a different topic and presenter.

Policy & Advocacy

We work with stakeholders to develop and pursue a shared policy agenda to increase the quality and availability of afterschool programs. Use these resources to help us advocate!



State Policy Updates



Federal Policy Updates



The State of Afterschool in Illinois 2018 Report

A detailed look at the data representing the vast landscape of afterschool across the state.