

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Check out these exciting upcoming events with ACT Now!

(Continue reading for additional resources and events!)

NOVEMBER				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
29	30	31	01	02
				Webinar: Navigating STEM Resources & PD Opportunities
05	06	07	08	09
	ELECTION DAY!		Community Schools Members Meeting (Chicago, IL)	
12	13	14	15	16
Quality Standards Training (Chicago, IL)				
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30
		IL-QPSA Webinar #2: How To Do a Self-Assessment		
03	04	05	06	07
		To register for events, visit: actnowillinois.org For questions, email Faith Knocke (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) at KnockeF@actnowillinois.org		

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Policy Updates

Every Kid Outdoor Act

There is currently bipartisan legislation that would get kids outside and moving. Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle came together to pass the Every Kid Outdoors Act, to help get our kids outdoors. The bill, introduced by Senators Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN), would encourage fourth graders and their families to visit America's natural, cultural, and historical treasures. The bill authorizes the Department of the Interior, U.S. Forest Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Army Corps of Engineers, to administer a pass program to provide free entry for fourth graders and their families to visit our national public lands, waters, and shores. The companion bill is sponsored by Representatives Niki Tsongas (D-MA), Scott Tipton (R-CO), Elise Stefanik (R-NY), and Diana DeGette (D-CO), and also passed the House of Representatives. To learn more, click [here](#).

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

Trainings and Events

Navigating STEM Resources & PD Opportunities

ACT Now is hosting a series of 4 STEM PD webinars for program providers to have an opportunity to strengthen their ability to navigate and implement STEM resources and activities. The next webinar, "Navigating STEM Resources and PD Opportunities", will be held **November 2nd from 10 AM to 11 AM CDT**. To register, click [here](#).

Working with Diverse Learners in Our Afterschool Program

The Illinois Afterschool Network will be providing an interactive training session that offers practical and proactive strategies as well as an inspirational message for those professionals who work with diverse learners (formerly children and youth with disabilities). The training session is \$15 for IAN members and \$30 for non-members. This training session will be held **November 1st in Chicago, IL from 10 AM to 12 PM CDT**. To register, click [here](#).

OK2BMe: Bullying & Body Image

During this session, the Illinois Afterschool Network (IAN) will discuss different types of bullying and how they impact and can lead to eating disorders. The session will be facilitated by Tina Carpenter, IAN Trainer and Chief Executive Officer of the Carbondale Boys and Girls Club. This session will be held **November 6th in Carbondale, IL from 6 PM to 8 PM**. To register, click [here](#).

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Webinar: Tools for Gauging SEL and School Climate in the Classroom

The U.S. Department of Education has announced an upcoming webinar featuring grantee organizations in conversation about the tools they use to measure social-emotional learning (SEL). This webinar will introduce attendees to three tools for gauging SEL, as told by grantees who already use them successfully. The webinar will be held **November 6th at 12 PM CDT**. To register, click [here](#).

Webinar: How to Start Your Safe Routes to School Program

This webinar will highlight different types of Safe Routes to School programs and how each was started. Participants will hear from city and school staff on best practices and ideas for how to start a program in your community. The webinar will be held **November 13th at 12 PM CDT**. To register, click [here](#).

To view ACT Now's calendar of events, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

Community Change Grant Program

The Community Change Grant Program will award grantees \$1,500 in community stipends for projects related to creating healthy, active, and engaged places to live, work, and play. Projects should be able to demonstrate how they will create healthy, active, and engaged communities that support walking as transportation, health, and recreation. **Applications are due by 4 PM CDT on November 2nd**. To learn more or apply, click [here](#).

For a list of previously listed funding opportunities, click [here](#).

Resources for Providers

How to Approach Social-Emotional Development Equitably

Robert Jagers and his colleagues at CASEL are working with others to ensure that "social and emotional learning [can] realize its potential to promote the optimal development of all students, including diverse groups of students." In this article, Jagers describes how CASEL and partners are reexamining the core social and emotional learning competencies to consider how each could more explicitly elevate equity. To read more, click [here](#).

Linking School to 21st Century Skills

Finding ways to better prepare our youth for the new workplace has recently taken on greater urgency among educators and policymakers. Across the country, high schools are providing different programs, such as career pathways and certification, to acquaint teenagers with workplace demands. Yet we seem to be short on a

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potentially effective strategy – apprenticeships -- and how students may benefit from such programs. To read more, click [here](#).

3 Ways to Implement SEL with Your Staff

Afterschool programs have the potential to transform the way adults approach SEL and incorporate it into activities, lessons and programming. WINGS for Kids offers three ways to help start implementing SEL with your staff today. To read more, click [here](#).

Resources for Earth Science Celebration

Are you planning an Earth Science celebration for children this season? Use SciJinks as a resource to provide stickers, bookmarks, or temporary tattoos to your attendees at **no cost!** To request free materials, click [here](#).

Halloween STEM Activities

Halloween isn't complete without amazing themed science experiments and fall STEM Activities! [Click here](#) for some ideas on easy Halloween experiments using simple supplies that make for creative STEM projects for all ages.

Reports

Improving Learning Outcomes in STEM for English Learners

A shift is needed in how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects are taught to students in grades K-12 who are learning English, says a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Educators should recognize the assets that English learners (ELs) bring to the classroom and understand that student performance is affected significantly by access to adequate program models and instruction. Opening avenues to success in STEM for the nation's ELs offers opportunities to students and their families, and confers benefits to society, the report says. To read more, click [here](#).

Engaging Families to Transform Education

This report identifies five promising, high-leverage areas that can serve as "building blocks" for the next generation of family engagement strategies: reducing chronic absenteeism, data sharing about student and school climate indicators, the academic and social development of youth in and out of school, digital media, and the critical transition periods in children's learning pathways. To read more, click [here](#).

The U.S. & the High Cost of Child Care

Illinois has work to do to ensure that child-care is affordable for all families. The data is clear and consistent: early experiences are critical for a child's social emotional

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and cognitive foundations. Yet, quality care and education is often unaffordable for families. To read the nationwide report, click [here](#).

Lights On Afterschool Spotlight

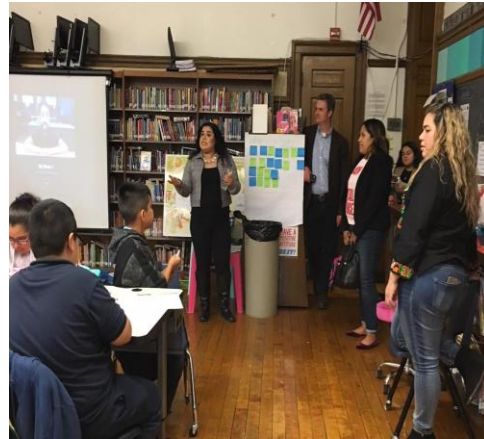
YWCA McLean County

To celebrate Lights On Afterschool 2018, YWCA McLean County held a two hour interactive performance event with the theme "Express Yourself." Performances included a student playing songs on the horn, a skit about individuality, and an ISU Fraternity-led stepping class. To read more, click [here](#).



Carole Robertson Center for Learning

The Carole Robertson Center for Learning (CRCL) celebrated Lights On Afterschool this year by holding a youth-led open house. The evening concluded with snacks and a Halloween art competition. Check out this shot of one of CRCL's tourguides posing with Senator Patricia Van Pelt.



Brighton Park Neighborhood Council

The Brighton Park Neighborhood Council celebrated Lights On Afterschool at all six of their Community Schools programs. Check out this shot of the film club at Burroughs Elementary School sharing their work with Representative Celina Villanueva

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