

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy Updates

Public Act 096-0734

Public Act 096-0734, which amends Public Act 095-0155, requires a school district to implement a summer breakfast and/or lunch program for the duration of the summer school program in all schools where 50 percent or more of the student population is eligible for free or reduced-price meals and have a summer school program. This amendment applies to all schools that meet the aforementioned criteria, including those schools not currently participating in any federal Child Nutrition Program. To learn more, [click here](#).

Protecting Sensitive Locations Act

On February 6th, Representative Adriano Espaillat (NY-13) introduced a legislative package to protect immigrant rights. The package reintroduced the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (H.R. 1011) which prohibits immigration enforcement in certain "sensitive locations" such as courthouses, schools, community centers and houses of worship. [Click here](#) for an overview of the existing policy and the bill.

Illinois Minimum Wage

As of February 14th, a bill to raise Illinois' minimum wage to \$15 by 2025 needs only Gov. J.B. Pritzker's signature to become law, and his office said he stands ready to act in the coming days. To learn more, [click here](#).

Vote Equity Guide

The Vote Equity Project conducted an innovative survey to rank the legislative priorities of Chicago's citizens. Vote Equity then created a guide to help voters tell the difference between the 15 candidates for mayor and 159 candidates for city council, based on the issues that were voted as being the most important to Chicago's citizens. Notably, implementing the Sustainable Community Schools model was ranked as one of the top 50 priorities. To learn more, [click here](#).

Webinar: Afterschool Programs as Partners in CTE Implementation

The Afterschool Alliance is offering an opportunity for afterschool program providers to learn more about the new Career & Technical Education (CTE) law (Perkins V), how to connect their work to the goals of Perkins V, and how to step into the planning process. Attendees will hear from other afterschool network leads from around the country (including Illinois), as well as the Afterschool Alliance's education partner, Advance CTE. This webinar will be held on **February 26th at 12:00 p.m.** To register, [click here](#).

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

Trainings and Events

ACT Now Membership Meetings

ACT Now is holding meetings for ACT Now members to network with one another and learn more about the work of ACT Now. We are holding our second membership meeting for the year on **February 27th in Granite City, IL from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** At this meeting, ACT Now will provide information about our advocacy efforts, resources we offer to support afterschool programs, and a family engagement professional development. Providers will spend much of the time will interacting with one another and creating new partnerships. To register, [click here](#).

Community School Providers Meetings

ACT Now is continuing to hold meetings for community school providers to network with one another and learn more about the work of ACT Now in the Community Schools space. Participants will hear about policy updates, network with other providers, and receive professional development in evaluation and messaging/marketing for community schools. (See below for a schedule of upcoming meetings.)

Upcoming Community School Providers Meetings:

- **Peoria, IL:** February 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))
 - *Note: The topic for the Peoria professional development opportunity is "family engagement."*
- **Skokie, IL:** February 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))
- **Chicago, IL:** March 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))

Quality Standards Trainings

ACT Now is providing free in-person trainings on the Illinois Statewide Quality Standards in order to help afterschool providers and staff continuously improve the quality of their programs.

Upcoming Quality Standards Trainings:

- **Chicago, IL:** March 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))
- **Springfield, IL:** April 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))

Safety, Health, & Nutrition

Webinar: Every Kid Healthy Week

Action for Healthy Kids will host a webinar for programs to learn about how to engage parents, families and the school community during Every Kid Healthy Week (April 22-26). Every Kid Healthy Week is an annual celebration and promotion of school health accomplishments. This webinar will be held on **February 27th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** To register, [click here](#).

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Webinar Series: Collaborative Mentoring

Throughout this webinar series, panelists will focus on how their particular mentoring program model was chosen and how they emphasize relationship building within the group setting. These webinars are held **monthly on every third Thursday**. For more information, [click here](#).

Webinar: Supporting a Generation of Civic Minded Youth

Join the Afterschool Alliance to see how existing afterschool programs have successfully implemented opportunities and activities that bring the lessons of democracy to life, lift up youth voice, and empower youth to be change makers. The new brief, "[Promoting Civic Engagement through Afterschool Programs](#)", will also be shared to provide a framework for discussion on youth civic engagement. This webinar will be held on **February 20th at 12:30 p.m.** To register, [click here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

OMD Scholars Program

One Million Degrees (OMD) offers groundbreaking, whole-student programming to low-income, highly motivated community college students to help them navigate challenges while building key skills for success in school, in work, and in life. Applications for the 2019-2020 program are now open. There are limited spaces available per community college campus, so students are encouraged to apply early. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Summer Meals Program

ISBE is looking for partners to help provide meals to kids over the summer when school isn't in session. 33 of Illinois' 102 counties do not have Summer Meal sites ISBE administers the Summer Meals Program, and the state receives federal reimbursement to cover the costs of preparing and serving meals. For more information on the Summer Meals Program or becoming a sponsor or site visit ISBE's [website](#), email cnp@isbe.net, or call [217-782-2491](tel:217-782-2491).

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

Funding Opportunities

Education First SEL Grant

Education First seeks applications for teacher-led and district-level projects that foster social and emotional learning (SEL) skills in students in grades PK-12. They will award up to \$5,000 to individual teachers or teacher teams, and up to \$25,000 for district-level grants to implement an innovative project in their classrooms, schools, and/or districts in the 2019-20 school year. Applications are due **March 22nd**. To learn more or to apply, [click here](#).

Resources for Providers

Safety, Health, & Nutrition

National Nutrition Month (March)

This National Nutrition Month, utilize these resources to help your program "spring" into the new season with a variety of tools and resources to help the youth you serve find a healthy eating style that works for them at any age. [Click here](#) to celebrate nutrition in the coming month with some great educational materials and activities

Spotlight on Afterschool

Kids Golf Foundation

Interested in incorporating a new activity? The Kids Golf Foundation (KGF) is here to help! KGF is a nonprofit organization that aims to introduce children to the sport of golf its fundamentals, rules, etiquette, and most importantly the life lessons children can take away from the game. KGF works with existing out-of-school time programs to carry out KGF opportunities. KGF will provide you with everything you need from training, equipment, resources, and more, all at no cost (Prior golf experience is not a requirement.) For more information, [click here](#) or call [\(630\) 466-0913](tel:630-466-0913).



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 Faith Knocke (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) KnockeF@metrofamily.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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Policy Updates

Every Kid in a Park Initiative

In 2017, the Every Kid Outdoors Act was introduced as a way of ensuring that the Department of Interior establish a program that gives fourth graders

free entry to national parks and lands continues. The bill was never signed into law, however it is being reintroduced within a government lands package as the Every Kid in a Park initiative. To learn more, [click here](#).

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Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Developing SEL Climates in OST Programs

At this training provided by the Illinois AfterSchool Network, attendees will gain strategies on how to create safe spaces, learn creative check-ins, check-outs and participate in activities to encourage continued social and

emotional learning through instruction. The session will be facilitated by Ashley Perkins, founder of Be WELL Tools for SEL. This training will be held on **March 5th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** For questions or to register, please email or call Jackie Richie at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620. (This training costs \$10 per person.)

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

Youth Opportunities

Power of Youth Challenge

The Power of Youth Challenge invites youth to bring positive change to their community by leading a local service project. Each team that signs up will have access to financial support in the form of mini grants of up to \$250. Those who complete their projects will be eligible for an accelerator grant of up to \$5,000 to grow their project over the next year. Applications are due **March 31st**. To learn more, [click here](#).

Doehrman Buba Scholarship

The Give Back Scholarship of Doehrman Buba is unique in that not only does it help students pay tuition, but a portion of the award (\$500) will go directly to the nonprofit organization where the student volunteered their time. Doehrman Buba is offering a total award of \$3,000. Applications are due **May 31st**. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

STEAM in OST Survey

The Innovation Collaborative is conducting a national study that will help outline effective practices for sciences, technology, engineering, arts/humanities, and math (STEAM). Being the first national study of its kind, your participation could help determine what constitutes an effective STEAM program in a broad range of out-of-school settings, as well as provide the

foundational research base for the out-of-school STEAM movement. To participate, [click here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Environmental Stewardship & Outdoor Activities Grant

The Clif Bar Family Foundation seeks to provide small grants for non-profit afterschool programs that work on environmental stewardship, youth outdoor physical activity, and service to the community. Awards vary depending on the request. Applications are due **June 1st**. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

OST Tech Toolkit

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) and Google announced a new toolkit to support your STEM work! This free resource includes a series of modules, webinars and hands-on training that will help you plan and prepare to integrate technology into your program. To learn more, [click here](#).

Science Buddies

Science Buddies is a K-12 nonprofit that has developed a unique library of quality STEM resources that are free for students, parents, and teachers. These resources include standards-aligned lesson plans, career profiles, hands-on activities, and 1,000+ project ideas. To learn more, [click here](#).

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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 Faith Knocke (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) KnockeF@metrofamily.org

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