



ACT Now Events Calendar

February

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
04	05	06	07	08
	60 by 25 Conference			
11	12	13	14	15
		IL-QPSA Webinar #3: Analyzing Your Data 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.		
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	01
		ACT Now Membership Meeting (Granite City, IL) 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Community Schools Providers Meeting (Skokie, IL) 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.	
To register for events, click on the calendar, or visit: actnowillinois.org For questions, email Faith Knocke (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) at KnockeF@actnowillinois.org				

Policy Updates

The 116th Congress: Key Afterschool Issues

As January winds down and with the partial government shutdown on hold at least until February 15th, it is a good time to look at the new 116th Congress: what are the priorities, what might get accomplished, and what are the challenges and opportunities ahead from the afterschool advocate's perspective. To learn more, [click here](#).

STEM Education Research Bill

Before the 115th Congress adjourned in December of 2018, the President signed the Innovations in Mentoring, Training, and Apprenticeships Act ([H.R. 5509](#)). This act provides \$40 million in funding for the National Science Foundation to provide grants to universities and community colleges for research into STEM education approaches and STEM-related workforce issues. To learn more, [click here](#).

STEM Hub Memo

The Afterschool STEM Hub published a memo to federal agencies in late January 2019 in response to the Trump Administration's 5-year STEM education strategy that was released in early December 2018. The memo provides background information on afterschool and summer STEM programs, and offers recommendations to expand access and increase quality of STEM programs. To read the memo, [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](#))
- **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](#))

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Celebrating Career & Technical Learning

[Click2Science](#) is providing a webinar that will highlight what is happening in the changing career and technical education field, as well as provide strategies you can implement right away in elementary, middle school or high school OST programs. This webinar will be held on **February 13th at 1:00 p.m.** To register, [click here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

3D Printing Challenge

Extreme Redesign is an annual 3D printing challenge that invites students to design an original piece of art, jewelry, or architecture, or to make an existing design better. If students don't have access to a 3D printer, individual students or teams can create and submit their designs files in .STL format with a compelling description highlighting the design's inspiration, meaning and impact. This challenge ends on **February 24th**. For more information, [click here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Addressing Domestic & Sexual Assault

The Consolidated Grant Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault provides opportunities for communities to create coordinated community responses to increase collaboration among non-profits providing services to victims of domestic and sexual assault. Grants will be awarded for up to \$500,000. The deadline to apply for this grant is **March 6th**. To learn more, [click here](#).

Strengthening Communities through Innovative Solutions

Project Innovation is strengthening communities by providing funding to local non-profit organizations that are solving everyday problems. Project Innovation is awarding grants to exceptional non-profit programs that are addressing one of the four community issue areas: Culture of Inclusion, Youth Education, Next Generation Storytellers, Community Engagement. Applications are due **February 15th**. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Report: Building Protective & Promotive Factors in Afterschool

Research shows that high-quality afterschool programs can both support positive youth outcomes—including enhanced academic, social, and emotional skills—and prevent poor youth outcomes. This white paper provides program leaders, policymakers, and other afterschool stakeholders with a common approach for addressing three important developmental outcomes in childhood and adolescence: substance misuse and abuse, problem behaviors, and academic performance. To learn more, [click here](#).

Report: Education Alignment for 21st Century Skills

In recent years, education professionals have focused much of their energy on the need for education systems to equip learners with competencies such as problem-solving, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication. The focus on these "21st century goals" is visible in education and curricular reform, and has been promoted by global discussion of changing work and societal needs. This report describes global, regional, and national examples of this shift, and then focuses on implementation challenges. To read the full report, [click here](#).

Safety, Health, & Nutrition

Cold Weather Resources

Every year, Illinois averages at least five major winter storms that impact millions of people. Being prepared for winter doesn't have to cost a lot of money or take a lot of time. Check out these [severe weather resources](#) compiled by the [Illinois School and Campus Resource Center](#) to be sure you are always prepared.

Professional Development and Qualifications

Micro PD

It is a fairly standard belief that professional development (PD) must go deeper than the one-and-done workshop; it must be more sustained, more relevant, and offer tangible takeaways. One way to review and practice PD skills is to offer "Micro PD" sessions throughout the year. Micro PD sessions are five- to eight-minute invigorating opportunities for teachers and program providers to benefit from a practice that helps them bond and reflect on their existing skills. To learn more, [click here](#).

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](#).

Do you find the ACT Now newsletter to be a quality resource for your program? If so, please consider making a contribution to ACT Now so that we may continue to provide free resources to afterschool program providers, and, in turn, create a brighter future for the state of afterschool programs in Illinois!

[DONATE HERE!](#)