



Policy Updates

P-20 Council Meeting

On June 6, 2019, the P-20 Council met for its quarterly meeting. The Council heard a presentation from the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education about the Illinois Post-Secondary Profiles, an online database where policymakers, parents, researchers, administrators, and other stakeholders can examine college opportunities using the latest data publicly available. The Council also heard legislative, agency, and committee updates. Of note was a number of items included in the [State Budget](#) that passed on May 31, 2019, including funding increases for MAP grants and the Aim High program. ISBE also discussed the Illinois teacher shortage and reported that they are engaging in listening tours for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to gain feedback on a number of areas. The next Council meeting date and location is to be determined.

No Federal Funds for Public Charge Act

Representative Chu (CA-27) re-introduced the No Federal Funds for Public Charge Act ([HR 3222](#)). The bill would prohibit any federal funds to be used to implement DHS's [public charge rule](#). Illinois co-sponsors so far include: Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL-09) and Rep. Chuy Garcia (IL-04).

Afterschool for All Challenge Update

June 12, 2019 marked the [18th Afterschool for All Challenge](#), and we made our voices heard! The Trump administration has proposed eliminating all funds for 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the primary federal funding stream for afterschool and summer learning programs. In response, supporters from all across the nation, including [ACT Now's Network Lead](#) (Susan Stanton), told Congress not to eliminate the quality afterschool and summer learning programs that we rely on to keep children safe, inspire them to learn, and give working parents peace of mind.

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

Trainings and Events

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Chicago STEM Workshops

The Office of Community Education Partnerships at Northwestern University is excited to offer STEM professional development opportunities this summer (all of which are appropriate for both in-school and out-of-school educators). Each workshop is FREE to all participants and continuing education units (CEUs) are available. All opportunities take place in either **July or August**. To learn more, [click here](#).

Webinar: Making the Most of Summer Learning

This webinar provides an overview of the importance of summer learning and shares tools and resources to help providers plan high-quality summer programs for students. The webinar and slides are available **on-demand**. To access the information, [click here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

iREAD Reading Program

The summer [iREAD Reading Program](#), sponsored by the Illinois Library Association, encourages students and their families to get involved in reading to prevent the “summer slide.” The iREAD program is available for FREE at Illinois public libraries.

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

Opportunities for Providers

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

Funding Opportunities

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Making STEM Education More Welcoming for Underrepresented Minorities

Many people working in STEM education are realizing that barriers to increasing diversity have less to do with underrepresented minorities being ill-equipped and more to do with the unwelcoming academic culture they must navigate. [Click here](#) to read more about how you can create welcoming STEM educational spaces for underrepresented populations.

Safety, Health, & Nutrition

Summer Food, Summer Moves Toolkit

Looking for enrichment activities for summer meal sites? Check out the USDA's [Summer Food, Summer Moves](#) toolkit to keep kids and families excited about healthy eating and staying active, even when school's not in session! Resources are available in English and in Spanish.

Summer Awareness Building Toolkit

No Kid Hungry's [Summer Awareness Building Toolkit](#) provides a menu of options for leveraging outreach opportunities around summer meals and No Kid Hungry's National Summer Meals Texting Hotline (FOOD/COMIDA to 877-877).

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!

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