Policy Updates

ISBE Board Meeting Recap

On May 15, 2019, the Illinois State Board of Education met for their monthly meeting. At the meeting, the Board extensively covered changes to the state's accountability measures under ESSA. The state is currently accepting comments on some of this information through its listening tour. The Board also heard comments regarding and extensively discussed plans for the Illinois Virtual School, issues around the state's procurement process, and the denial of the Teacher Leader Program for American Intercontinental University (AIU). You can find the meeting materials and information about future meetings [here](#).

ESSA Listening Tour

The Illinois State Board of Education is gathering stakeholder feedback on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that will inform an amendment to the Illinois ESSA Plan and improve Illinois' approach to measuring and supporting school performance. If you cannot make it to an in-person tour stop, we encourage you to submit comments via the online [survey submission](#) form. *ACT Now suggests selecting "No Opinion" for multiple-choice questions, as well as highlighting afterschool programs and community schools for the open-ended questions. ACT Now has drafted [sample comments](#) that providers can pull from when drafting their own comments.* Check out the listening tour stops [here](#) or submit feedback by completing the survey [here](#).

Public Charge Update

This past Friday, the Trump administration released a proposed rule that would restrict access to housing services and supports. The Department of Housing and Urban Development released a proposed rule to limit "[mixed-status](#)" families' access to housing aid, threatening the housing security of thousands of legally residing immigrant children and their caregivers. To learn more, [click here.](#) *Having a hard time knowing what to say about public charge? [This document](#) will help you approach these types of conversations with your community.*

Illinois School Discipline Update

[HB2084](#) passed the Senate Education Committee. This bill requires school districts with the highest numbers of student discipline incidents to submit a plan to the

Illinois State Board of Education on how to reduce exclusionary practices. It also creates a grant program to promote school safety.

For a list of previously listed policy updates, click here.

Trainings and Events

Past CS Providers Meetings Recap

The last of the community schools providers meetings for FY19 was held on May 14th in Wheaton. This group heard policy updates from Susan Stanton, as well as a presentation on needs assessments by Hannah Mngwamba (Metropolitan Family Services). Both groups also had time to share ideas and network with one another. You can access a recording of the needs assessment presentation **here**. A needs assessment toolkit can be found **here**, as well as a guided needs assessment template **here**. Additionally, a sample needs assessment can he found **here**.

College Changes Everything Conference

Attend the ninth annual College Changes Everything® (CCE) conference – the state's premier college access and success event. This one day conference focuses on effective practices and showcases resources available to help with increasing access to post-secondary education, college completion, and career readiness.This conference will take place on **July 18th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** To register, click here.

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

National Geographic BioBlitz Workshop

A BioBlitz is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time. These events can happen in any geography—urban, rural, or suburban. This workshop will demonstrate how providers can bring a BioBlitz activity to their own programs! The workshop will take place on **June 4th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the ACT Now Office in Chicago**. *Please note: One hour of the training will be held outdoors.* To register, click here.

To view ACT Now's calendar of events, click here.

Youth Opportunities

ACE Academy

Lewis University Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academy is a week-long summer camp program designed to introduce students (age 13-18) to flying and aviation related careers. To learn more, click here.

Summer CyberUp Camp

Join CyberUp at McKendree University for a week long CyberCamp from **June 10th-14th**. Students will explore cybersecurity career opportunities, cyber ethics, online safety, how computers work, and cyber threats through fun, hands-on, interactive activities. This camp is open to all middle school and high school students. To learn more, click here.

Give Back Scholarship

This scholarship is geared toward college students who spend time volunteering and go above and beyond for their community. The scholarship is $3,000 ($2,500 will go toward the student's tuition and $500 will go to a non-profit organization where the student volunteered their time). The application deadline is **May 31st**. Learn more here.

For an archive of our previously listed Youth Opportunities, click here

Opportunities for Providers

Start a Girls Who Code Club

Girls Who Code Clubs are FREE after-school programs for 3rd-5th or 6th-12th grade girls to join a sisterhood of supportive peers and role models and use computer science to change the world. Clubs are led by Facilitators, many of which have NO technical experience and learn to code alongside their Club members.For all questions, check out the FAQs or email Clubs@girlswhocode.com.

For an archive of our previously listed Opportunities for Providers, click here.

Funding Opportunities

Skokie Community Foundation Grants

The Skokie Community Foundation is seeking collaborative proposals that benefit Skokie residents. A single grant of $10,000 will be awarded to a project specifically designed to address the issue of social inclusion in Skokie. In addition, the foundation will award several grants of $5,000. Proposals may address any aspect of community, including, but not limited to, community development, early childhood, education, workforce development, and/or youth development. The application deadline is **September 7th**. To learn more, click here.

STEMfinity Grant Archive

STEMfinity is a one-stop-STEM-shop that includes a state-specific STEM grant archive. Click here to access STEM grant opportunities in Illinois.

For an archive of our previously listed Funding Opportunities, click here.

Resources for Providers

Family & Community Partnerships

Family Engagement Around the World

The Global Stories interactive map feature captures how a wide range of children's champions engage families to overcome long-standing barriers—such as poverty, racism, and gender inequality—that continue to limit opportunities for children and youth in many countries. Use these stories to spark ideas and inspire your work with families to support children's success. Click here to learn more.

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

STEM Gem: Solar System

In this STEM Gem, young people will explore the solar system by building models of the planets and discovering what makes each planet unique. Click here to learn more.

Safety, Health, & Nutrition

Yoga for Self-Regulation, Attention, & Learning

Use these yoga practices to facilitate discussions with youth about sensations in their body that they may experience when they feel angry, frustrated, sad, worried or fearful

and how important it is to notice when their body is feeling this way so they can calm their nervous system. Click here to learn more.

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.