



Policy Updates

ISBE Board Meeting Recap

On June 19, 2019, the Illinois State Board of Education met for their monthly meeting. During this meeting, the Board extensively covered an update on Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) for Illinois schools. For FY2020, ISBE will work with the Professional Review Panel to develop a reflective year plan to focus on use of EBF for low-income students, English learners, and students with disabilities. The Board also approved the meeting calendar for the FY 2019-2020 school year, as well as heard legislative and budget updates (see calendar and meeting locations in the [Board packet](#)). The meeting also included information about what the Board learned from stakeholders across the state during ESSA listening tours, short and long term solutions for the teacher shortage, and proposals from two different state assessment platform vendors. The Board will meet next on August 14, 2019, in Springfield. For more details, [click here](#).

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

Trainings and Events

National Summer Learning Week

National Summer Learning Week (NSLW) is an annual national advocacy week to highlight the importance of keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy every summer. Check out [ACT Now's toolkit](#) for examples of how you can take action, as well as sample social media posts and ideas for celebrating each day of NSLW! Also, be sure to [register your program](#) on the official NSLW website. National Summer Learning Week 2019 will be held **June 8th to June 13th**.

ICOY Violence Prevention Panel

Join the [Illinois Collaboration on Youth](#) (ICOY) for a discussion about the importance of violence prevention programming that is broad and multi-faceted to meet the needs of its population. **This event will be held on June 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Lawndale Christian Conference Center in Chicago.**

FAFSA Symposium

Save the date! This one-day convening on **August 29th in Palos Hills** will focus on strategies for preparing students and families to complete the FAFSA, supporting high schools' FAFSA completion efforts, and follow-up support for students post-FAFSA completion and submission. Stay tuned for registration information later this summer.

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

Youth Opportunities

Shedd Aquarium Teen Learning Lab

Teens are invited to use this free lab space to make new friends, work on projects, and explore careers in aquatic science. When youth are ready to dive into the Teen Learning Lab, direct them to one of the [new teen orientations](#), where they'll be introduced to the mentors, projects and resources available within the lab.

Tenth District STEM Scholars

Beginning this fall, participating youth will have an opportunity to join Rep. Brad Schneider (IL-10) on visits to four local STEM-related businesses and facilities during the 2019-2020 school year. On these visits, students will have the chance to participate in discussions with local employees, business owners, and educators, and learn more about the STEM career opportunities in our backyard. This program is open to all rising Sophomores and Juniors who live in or attend high schools located within Illinois's Tenth Congressional District. To learn more or to apply, [click 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** 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, who can be teachers, computer scientists, librarians, parents, or volunteers from any background or field. To learn more about Girls Who Code programs, you can [sign up for a Girls Who Code Webinar here](#). You can also take a look at a [step-by-step guide](#) on how to start a Girls Who Code Club. ***Remember to list ACT Now as your partner affiliation on the clubs application in order to receive partnership benefits!***

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

Family & Community Partnerships

Afterschool: A Strategy for Workforce Development

Preparing young people for the changing needs of the global workforce is a challenge that city officials can respond to by embracing high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs. [This issue brief](#) takes a look at five cities where workforce development programs are engaging youth in mentoring, apprenticeships, job placement, and supporting youth in developing social and emotional skills as they learn about career opportunities.

Professional Development & Qualifications

Investing in Staff & STEM Professional Development

Providing staff with robust training and supports is key to delivering a high-quality summer program in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Check out [this issue brief](#) to learn more about how offering program staff a hands-on curriculum, training, and coaching in STEM results in increased knowledge, skills, and confidence on the part of students, and greater staff confidence in leading STEM activities, as well as high staff retention.

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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