

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy Update

Governor Rauner's FY18 Budget Address

Governor Rauner will be delivering his annual budget address to the Illinois General Assembly on **Wednesday, February 15, 2017** at 12:00 p.m. You can listen live on WTAX and WTAX.com.

You can also join Governor Rauner on Facebook Live at noon on **Tuesday, February 14, 2017** to ask questions regarding the budget. To watch with captions visit: Illinois.Gov/RaunerLive.

ESSA State Plan Draft

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has released its third draft of its Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) implementation plan. The plan has been shared with Governor Rauner for his review. You can still submit comments to ISBE via this [link](#). To see ACT Now's comments from the last round of the ESSA listening tour, click [here](#).

Tell Policymakers to Release the 21st CCLC RFP

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is in the process of finalizing the next 21st Century RFP. **We need you to tell your policymakers that the RFP needs to be released NOW in order to time the grant start date as much as possible with the start of the fiscal year.** Timing the RFP this way allows for schools and partners to engage in shared planning before the start of school, leading to stronger programs and stronger partnerships. It also means that there will not be a gap in programs or services, and that grantees do not need to lay off staff. Click on this [link](#) to share this message with legislators asking them to tell ISBE to release the RFP. You can also use this [form letter](#) to send a message to ISBE.

Social & Emotional Screening Bill Passes

Public Act [099-0927](#) was signed into law on January 20, 2017. It amends the school code

with respect to the developmental and the social and emotional screenings. The law is intended to create additional and regular opportunities for children to have access to preventive and early intervention mental health resources.

Upcoming Events

Summer Meals Information Sessions

The Illinois State Board of Education in partnership with No Kid Hungry Illinois is seeking nonprofit organizations to serve as sponsors and sites for the federally-funded Summer Meals program that serves kids age 18 and younger. Information sessions are being held statewide. For a list of the 2017 dates and locations, click [here](#). For more information or to register for the Summer Food program, click [here](#). For an example of how the summer meal program supports families and communities, watch the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District's [video](#).

Higher Education: Collateral Damage in the Budget Battle

The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability is hosting a series of panel discussions across the state examining Illinois' budget cuts to higher education. The next panel will be held on **Tuesday, February 14, 2017** beginning at 10:30 a.m. on the campus of Western Illinois University in Macomb. For more information, click [here](#).

Afterschool Development Work Group

The Afterschool Development Work Group is a self-organized group of afterschool, education, civic, and nonprofit leaders and practitioners working together to amplify the voice of afterschool as a vital resource to improve the lives of Chicago's youth. Their next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 15, 2017**, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the Goodman Theater, located at 170 North Dearborn in Chicago. For more information and to RSVP, contact David Cherry at dcherry@allstars.org or 312-994-3100.

Engineers Week

Engineers Week celebrates the contributions engineers have made to the world, increases public dialogue about the need for engineers, and brings the field to life for kids, educators, and parents. This year's celebration will be held **February 19-25**. For a list of Chicago area events, click [here](#).

Digital Learning Day 2017

Digital Learning Day was started in 2012 as a way to actively spread innovative practices and ensure that all youth have access to high-quality digital learning opportunities no matter where they live. It provides traditional and out-of-school time education leaders an opportunity to highlight innovative teachers, leaders, and instructional technology programs that are improving student outcomes. This year's celebration will take place on **Thursday, February 23, 2017**. Click [here](#) for more information as well as activity ideas that encourage new ways of using technology for learning.

Opportunity Youth Summit

Thrive Chicago in partnership with Mayor Emanuel and the Department of Family and Support Services, will be leading an Opportunity Youth Summit on **Tuesday, March 14, 2017**, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center. The summit will include an overview of new research focused on opportunity youth, a panel discussion with experts and practitioners, and new citywide recommendations for connecting out-of-school and out-of-work youth ages 16 to 24 to jobs and education. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

2017 NAA Convention

The National AfterSchool Association's (NAA) 2017 Annual Convention will be held **March 19th to March 22nd** in Dallas, TX. More than 200 professional learning opportunities will be offered with topics ranging from tools for implementing a top-notch STEM curriculum to effectively identifying and dealing with bullying. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Ten80 Education VIP Coffee & Conversation

Ten80 and Partners in STEM, a 501(c)3 dedicated to promoting best practices in STEM and STEAM education, are facilitating conversations to build collaborations that expand access and participation to better serve students, educators, and employers who count on a strong workforce. They are hosting a VIP Coffee & Conversation event on **Wednesday, March 22, 2017**, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the UIC Forum, located at 725 West Roosevelt Road in Chicago. For more information or to RSVP, click [here](#).

IAN Spring Conference

IAN's 31st Annual Spring AfterSchool Conference will be held on **Saturday, April 29, 2017**, at the Sheraton Lisle Hotel, located at 3000 Warrenville Road in Lisle, IL. The 2017 spring conference will include professional development sessions for front line staff and seasoned professionals, an interactive market, and a public policy meeting sponsored by ACT Now.

Click [here](#) for additional details or to register.

Youth Opportunity

2017 ProjectCSGIRLS Competition

The ProjectCSGIRLS Competition challenges middle school girls in grades six through eight to use computer science and technology to build something that can help solve an imminent social problem under one of three themes: global health, a safer world, and intelligent technology. Registration must be completed by **Wednesday, February 15, 2017**. For more details, click [here](#).

Startup Spring Break

Startup Spring Break is a free week-long intensive entrepreneurship bootcamp for middle school girls sponsored by Future Founder and Google. The camp will be held the week of **April 7-13, 2017** at Google's Chicago office and LEAP Innovations at 1871. Current seventh or eighth grade girls from Chicago Public Schools passionate about exploring entrepreneurship are invited to apply. The application deadline is **Friday, February 17, 2017**. For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Chicago City Treasurer's 2017 Black History Month Essay Contest

The Black History Month Essay Competition recognizes a Chicago Public High School senior who has displayed outstanding academic achievement or community involvement and writes a thoughtful and impactful essay on a topic related to Black History Month. The winner of this competition will receive a \$2,500 non-renewable scholarship to support the cost of attending the first year of college. For more information, click [here](#). All applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on **Thursday, February 23, 2017** via email to CollegeScholarships@cps.edu.

Girls Who Code Summer Immersion Program

The Girls Who Code Summer Immersion Program is a 7-week computer science course that offers rising female high school juniors and seniors instruction, hands on experience, and mentoring within the technology field. The program offered in Chicago, IL will run from **June 26th through August 11th**. The application deadline is **Friday, March 17, 2017**. For additional details or to apply, click [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

How to Get Media Attention for Your Youth Who Are Making a Difference

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is hosting an hour long webinar on **Tuesday, February 28, 2017** at 4:00 p.m. that will focus on garnering media attention for youth doing positive things. Session attendees will also learn how to write effective news releases as well as tips for preparing youth for media interviews. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

IAN Educational Leadership Symposium

The Illinois AfterSchool Network (IAN) is sponsoring an Educational Leadership Symposium on **Thursday, March 2, 2017**, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Eastland Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington, IL. The workshop will assist front line staff and program coordinators with integrating social and emotional learning into their afterschool programs. For more information and application details, click [here](#). The deadline for submission is **Friday, February 17, 2017**.

Resources

We Love Afterschool Valentine's Campaign

Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire learning, and help working families. This Valentine's Day is a great opportunity for providers, parents, and students to share some of the reasons afterschool is close to their heart. For tips and resources for expressing your love for afterschool on social media, click [here](#).

Providing Successful Afterschool Math Enrichment

Extending math learning beyond the school day can not only help young people to meet math standards and develop proficiency, but also enables them to engage in the kind of deep learning they might not have time for during the school day. Afterschool programs wishing to add math to their activity offerings can do so by connecting math concepts to familiar ideas, providing opportunities for individual and small-group instruction, and offering homework support. For more tips on how your program can foster successful afterschool math enrichment, click [here](#).

21st Century Collaboration Challenge

The 21st Century Collaboration Challenge pairs youth in online collaborative games that are designed to help them work productively in teams to solve increasingly difficult puzzles.

Interested education program leaders can enroll students, grades four through 11, in one to three 30-minute sessions for free. The top performing groups will be invited to the 21st Century Collaboration Challenge Finals where youth can win national recognition and up to \$500 for their in-school or out-of-school time programs. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Making the Case for STEM Learning

FrameWorks Academy, a multi-media learning environment that offers nonprofits guidance on effectively framing public outreach and policy communications, is offering a course entitled “Making the Case for STEM Learning.” This tool utilizes empirically tested communications strategies that will aid supporters of STEM in their advocacy for expanding innovative and engaging, hands-on STEM learning. For more information, click [here](#).

Opportunities for Afterschool Providers

Dental Resources for Afterschool Programs

SmileConnect.org is an online platform available to afterschool programs in Illinois that allows programs to receive dental resources and preventive services onsite free-of-charge for their students. SmileConnect works to connect children in need of dental resources with those available to help by utilizing local volunteer dental providers and distributing oral health kits donated by its partners. Programs can get connected with these resources at any time by visiting www.SmileConnect.org and creating a request. Contact Allison Bohlen, SmileConnect Program Lead, with any questions at Allison.Bohlen@Altarum.org or (734) 302-4618.

Certified Healthy OST Training of Trainers Program

The Certified Healthy OST Training of Trainers Program creates a national network of trainers who in return will provide technical assistance and training to school districts and school buildings, to support healthy eating and physical activity in out-of-school time settings. For additional details or to apply, click [here](#). The applications deadline is **Friday, February 17, 2017**.

CCE Call for Proposals

College Changes Everything (CCE) is making a call for interest session proposals for its seventh annual conference. The event will be held on **Thursday, July 20, 2017** at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Proposals covering a wide range of themes related to college access and completion and career readiness are encouraged. For more information

or to submit a proposal, click [here](#). Priority consideration will be given to forms completed by **Friday, March 17, 2017**.

Funding Opportunity

New York Life Foundation Aim High RFP

The New York Life Foundation has created a new \$1.95 Million fund to assist afterschool and summer learning programs with helping their middle school students make a successful transition from 8th to 9th grade. Aim High will provide \$750,000 to support 18 awards nationwide with technical assistance, enhancing direct service activities, and/or program expansion. Applications are due by **Friday, February 17, 2017**. Click [here](#) to learn more about the grant program, funding guidelines, and how to apply.

School Breakfast Grants

No Kid Hungry Illinois Breakfast Grants provide schools with up to \$5,000 for the purchase of approved equipment, materials, and initiatives facilitating alternative breakfast models such as Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab-N-Go, or Second Chance Breakfast. For more information or to apply, click [here](#). Applications must be submitted by **Wednesday, March 22, 2017**.

Afterschool Meals Grant

No Kid Hungry Illinois is offering grants up to \$2,500 to help At-Risk After-School Meal sponsors expand participation in afterschool meals and extended day meal programs that receive reimbursement through the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Eligible applicants must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit currently in good standing, schools, local government agencies able to accept grants, or churches/tax-exempt religious organizations. Applicants must also be approved or awaiting approval to provide CACFP At-Risk After-School Meals for the upcoming school year. For more information or to apply, click [here](#). Applications must be submitted by **Wednesday, March 22, 2017**.

Science Everywhere Innovation Challenge

The Science Everywhere initiative challenges public school teachers to submit creative, hands-on projects that inspire students to explore math and science outside the classroom. Five \$5,000 prizes will be awarded to the teachers who submit the best ideas on DonorsChoose.org. In addition, the Overdeck Family Foundation and the Simons Foundation are providing nearly half a million dollars to match donations from the public to support ideas submitted by educators to the DonorsChoose.org platform.

This is a great opportunity for afterschool providers to engage public school teachers and community partners to develop and raise funds for an innovative project to be implemented in their afterschool program. Qualifying projects must be presented by **Friday, March 24, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

2017 Invest For Kids Grants

Invest For Kids provides support for children in Chicago who are facing social and economic challenges by directing funds to smaller organizations that have been in existence for three years and who have an annual operating budget of \$1 to 3 Million, excluding government or agency funds. The application deadline is **Saturday, April 1, 2017**. For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Summer Meal Grants

No Kid Hungry is providing Summer Meal Grants up to \$5,000 to help organizations expand access to and participation in USDA-supported summer meals programs. To be eligible, applicants must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization currently in good standing and a Summer Food Service Program or National School Lunch Program summer meal program sponsor for summer 2016. For more information or to apply, click [here](#). Applications must be submitted by **Friday, April 7, 2017**.

Illinois Action for Healthy Kids Grants

Action for Healthy Kids is helping schools become healthier through its Game On or School Breakfast grants. The grants provide funding and technical assistance to increase physical activity opportunities, improve nutrition initiatives, engage parents in school wellness or increase breakfast participation for the 2017-2018 school year. The deadline to apply is **Friday, April 7, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

Join Illinois Action for Healthy Kids for their upcoming webinars to learn more about each grant, get project ideas, and discover strategies for writing a successful grant. The dates are as follow:

- [February 21, 2017: Game On Grant Application Webinar](#)
- [February 22, 2017: School Breakfast Grant Application Webinar](#)



Read more about the [ACT Now Coalition](#). Please send any information you would like included in the next newsletter to StantonS@metrofamily.org

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The ACT Now Coalition brings together afterschool and youth development stakeholders from across Illinois to work towards ensuring that all young people in Illinois have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs.

Please send this information to others who might be interested by forwarding this e-mail.

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