

# ACT NOW!

## Afterschool for Children and Teens

### ACT Now Quality Standards

#### Trainings

ACT Now is holding free trainings around the state on the Afterschool Quality Standards. The trainings will provide participants a general overview of the Standards and strategies for implementation. **Credit for the trainings will be available through the Gateways to Opportunity system and participants can also earn CEUs.** A training is scheduled for **Friday, April 28, 2017**, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel Lisle in Lisle, IL. This is a pre-conference session before the Illinois AfterSchool Network Conference. You do not need to register for the conference to participate in the training. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

#### Post-Training Feedback

ACT Now welcomes feedback from its Quality Standards training attendees. To share your thoughts on how we can better meet your program's needs in implementing the Standards, click [here](#).

### Policy Update

#### Governor Rauner's FY18 Budget Address

Governor Rauner delivered his FY18 budget address on February 15, 2017. The proposed budget does not allocate any funding for Teen REACH or the Healthy Communities Incentive Fund, but it does increase funding for child care providers. Please contact your legislators letting them know about the importance of Teen REACH and the Healthy Communities Incentive Fund and why they should be funded in FY18. To locate your legislator, click [here](#). To access the governor's budget proposal, click [here](#). The Illinois Department of Human Services FY18 Budget Request Agency Briefing can be accessed [here](#).

#### 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](#).

### **House Resolutions of Disapproval and ESSA Implementation**

On February 7, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to overturn Obama administration regulations under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) due to the regulations conflicting with the spirit of the law, which was intended to give state and district leaders more power. If the regulations are overturned in the Senate, it is unclear how the U. S. Department of Education would proceed as far as issuing guidance or new regulations. However, such changes could impact the ESSA April 3rd or September 8th submission deadlines. To read more, click [here](#).

### **Every Student Succeeds with STEM Day of Action**

On **Wednesday, February 22, 2017**, education groups across the country will be contacting Governors and other state officials to let them know STEM should be a priority in state Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plans. In preparation for the ESSA Day of Action, 100kin10 has prepared a messaging [toolkit](#) with template talking points, emails, and social content. To share your Day of Action story, click [here](#).

### **Support 21st CCLC Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs**

The U.S. House and Senate Appropriations Committees and Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittees are working on determining final FY17 funding levels for the programs that directly support local afterschool and summer learning programs, including the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative and the Child Care Development Block Grant. To call on Congress to maintain or increase funding for these programs, 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.

## Upcoming Events

### 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. 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. To register for the Digital Learning Day webinar, click [here](#).

### 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](#).

### 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](#).

## Youth Opportunities

### Imagination Foundation Inventor's Challenge

AT&T and the Imagination Foundation's Inventor's Challenge is an opportunity for pre-K through high school students to create novel, imaginative, and possibly viable solutions to challenges in their schools and communities. Entries can be shared online using #inventorchallenge and #ATTimpact. For more information or to enter, click [here](#). Entries must be submitted by **Friday, February 24, 2017**.

### **Quest for Excellence STEM Award**

The Quest for Excellence STEM Award gives high-achieving, high school juniors from low-income families that have an interest in STEM access to residential summer enrichment programs, grants for technology and supplies, funding for college visits, as well as opportunities to engage with industry leaders. These awards are intended to encourage and support students in pursuing and succeeding in a variety of STEM fields in college and beyond. For more information or to apply, click [here](#). Applications must be submitted by **Wednesday, March 22, 2017**.

## **Trainings and Webinars**

### **Digital Learning Day 2017: The Value of a Connected Classroom**

The Alliance for Excellent Education is hosting an hour long Digital Learning Day webinar on **Thursday, February 23, 2017** at 10:00 a.m. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

## **Resources**

### **Growing Computer Science Education in Afterschool**

For a recent report, the Afterschool Alliance conducted a survey to understand the field's thoughts on computer science education in the afterschool space. The data indicated that although almost 60 percent of respondents currently or previously offered computer science, a lack of qualified teachers, sufficient funding, and adequate technology are consistent barriers to moving forward. To access the report including a list of recommendations for advancing computing education in afterschool, click [here](#).

### **What Matters for High School and College Success**

The University of Chicago Consortium on School Research has developed a resource that solidifies the facts and dispel myths about what it takes to make it to and through college. To access "Busting Myths about What Matters for High School and College Success," 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](#).

## Opportunities for Afterschool Providers

### 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 Opportunities

### Violence Prevention, Recidivism Reduction, and Restorative Justice Grants

The Cook County Justice Advisory Council is accepting proposals for Violence Prevention, Recidivism Reduction, and Restorative Justice Grant opportunities. To download the request for proposal you must enroll in Cook County's online vendor's list [here](#). Requests for proposals must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 8, 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. Qualifying projects must be presented by **Friday, March 24, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

### Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund

The Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund is intended to help small non-profits, with annual

budgets of \$1 Million or less. For the calendar year of 2017, the Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund will focus grant-making in three categories: Food Programs, Housing, and Workforce Development. Grants will be awarded twice in 2017. Applications will be accepted during two periods, from **February 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017**, and from **July 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017**. Grant applicants located in Illinois Enterprise Zones or similarly depressed economic areas will receive special attention. For more information about eligibility and the criteria, 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](#).

### **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](mailto: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.

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