Policy Update

Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act Update

The Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act has passed the House and Senate and is now awaiting the President's signature. This bill reauthorizes the Perkins Career and Technical Education (Perkins CTE) program which governs federal investments toward helping students gain education, credentials, training, and skills toward employment in well-paid, skilled, in-demand careers.

With regard to the afterschool and youth-serving community, the bill provides:

- Inclusion of employability skills (like collaboration, communication, and problem-solving)
- Ability to begin programming around subjects like career exposure and exploration as early as the middle grades (5th grade and above)
- Inclusion of community-based partners in the state plan
- Collaboration with community-based and youth-serving organizations as a listed eligible use of local funds

As Congress moves forward in updating the Perkins CTE legislation, the afterschool field will be watching closely to ensure the law includes meaningful integration of community partners, including afterschool and summer learning programs. To learn more, click here.

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

Provider Opportunity

Start a Girls Who Code Club

Girls Who Code Clubs are FREE after-school programs for 3rd-5th or 6th-12th grade girls to use computer science to change the world. Learn more by checking out the Clubs curriculum or by joining an upcoming Girls Who Code webinar. Join the movement today! Start a Club by applying here!

Resources

Think-Act-Grow (TAG) Playbook

The US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Adolescent Health recently published its updated Think-Act-Grow (TAG) Playbook highlighting ways to help keep youth healthy and away from risk factors.To read more, click here.

Digital Citizenship Resources

Common Sense Media is a website that provides high-quality digital literacy and citizenship programs to students, families, educators and school communities. Free resources include ratings and reviews of digital tools, ready-made lesson plans, videos, webinars, and more. To learn more, click here.

Decoding STEM/STEAM Toys

Toys are commonly labeled as being STEM/STEAM related, but a lot of the time, the definition of what that means is blurry. That's why the Toy Association assembled a committee of experts in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math—as well as education—to delve in further and bring some clarity to the subject. To read the full report, click here.

Healthy Eating & Physical Activity: Standards 2.0

The NAA has completed an extensive update of the healthy eating and physical activity (HEPA) standards. To view the updated standards, click here.

For a list of afterschool and youth development related resources collected by ACT Now, click here.

Funding Opportunities

Federal Opportunities to Advance 2Gen Approach

In this brief, Ascend at the Aspen Institute explores new funding and policy developments that can strengthen two-generation (2Gen) system approaches—approaches that address both the needs of children and their family—and help break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. This brief highlights increased FY2018 appropriations for Head Start, the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), and Child Care Means Parents In School as funding opportunities for 2Gen strategies. To read the the brief, click here.

For a list of previously listed afterschool and youth development related grants, click here.