

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy Updates

Children's Cabinet Meeting

On September 6, 2018, the Governor's Children Cabinet met in Springfield, IL. The Cabinet heard a presentation on the [Illinois College2Career](#) Project, an online resource to help youth and adults ready to make college and career transitions find the best fit school in Illinois, and on the Transitional Math Project. The Cabinet also discussed several other projects it is working on:

- CCAP: Looking at self-sufficiency data for families that use CCAP. Found that overall there were gains in self-sufficiency but the individual families' gains varied widely.
- Dual Systems Involved Youth: Discussed the need to connect these youth to afterschool programs with youth not in the system.
- Mentoring Project: Working on an online platform for their work.

The meeting materials can be found [here](#). The next Children's Cabinet meeting will be on **December 13th**.

P-20 Council Meeting

On September 4, 2018, the Illinois P-20 Council met at Joliet Junior College. The Council heard a presentation from the Illinois Attendance Commission about the correlation between teacher attendance and student attendance. The Commission reported that the data was very nuanced, and it was hard to draw a direct correlation; but, the initial findings looking at CPS data showed a correlation as does national data. The Commission is continuing to look into this issue. The Council pointed out the passage of Perkins/CTE, which as many of you know from our previous updates includes a greater role for youth-serving organizations. The P-20 Council also heard a presentation on site-based expenditure reporting. In this presentation, ISBE representatives pointed out the number of districts operating below adequacy, the additional support low-performing districts will receive this year, the difference between site-based expenditure and site-based budgeting, and that this reporting is intended to not have data tell the story but to have needs inform the data. The Council also heard updates from committees, including the College and Career Readiness Committee who mentioned the expansion of competency-based districts and the initiation of a Perkins committee to implement the new law. The Family Engagement Committee mentioned parent engagement with ESSA, which is work with which ACT Now is greatly

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connected. To find meeting materials, click [here](#). The Council's next meeting is **December 10th**.

How to Talk About 'Public Charge' with Immigrant Families

Leaked drafts show that the Trump Administration is preparing to issue a federal rule that changes the definition of a "public charge" and threatens access to basic needs programs. To become a legal permanent resident (LPR) or "green card" holder, a person must show that they are unlikely to become a public charge in the future. A person can be considered a public charge if they are receiving cash assistance and/ or if they are institutionalized for long-term care at government expense. This document summarizes topline Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign messages and talking points recommended for use when communicating with immigrant communities about this topic. To download this guide, click [here](#).

Devos on Issue of Schools Buying Guns

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos stated September 7th that she has no intention of taking any action or position when it comes to whether schools can use federal funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act to purchase firearms for teachers. DeVos' letter comes after a top official in her department, asked about arming teachers in an interview with the Associated Press, said states and local jurisdictions always "had the flexibility" to decide how to use federal education funds. The letter appears to make it clear that the Secretary will not proactively issue guidance saying that it is okay for districts to spend their Title IV funds on guns or firearms training for teachers. But, importantly, DeVos also did not say that she would stop a district from using federal funding to arm teachers, if the district decided that was the best use of its Title IV funding. To read more, click [here](#).

To view an archive of past policy updates, click [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

Webinar: IL-QPSA Sneak Peek

The Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment (IL-QPSA) is an online strengths-based self-assessment tool that allows individual out-of-school time (OST) providers the opportunity to self-assess on their performance based on the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards. Join us for a sneak peek webinar to walk you through the tool, as well as the assessment process. This webinar will be held **Monday, September 17th @ 9:30 a.m.** To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

Webinar Series: STEM Professional Development

ACT Now will be hosting a series of 4 STEM PD webinars for program providers to have an opportunity to strengthen their ability to navigate and implement STEM resources

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and activities. See the details below for a list of webinar topics and information about registering.

- **OST STEM Programming 101: September 21st, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. CDT** (Register [here](#))
- **Navigating STEM Resources and PD Opportunities: October 31st, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. CDT** (Register [here](#))
- **STEM Programming & Funding: January 23rd, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. CDT** (Register [here](#))
- **Making Industry Connections in STEM Programming: March 27th, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. CDT** (Register [here](#))

Webinar: Public Charge 101

This webinar will provide an overview of how the public charge test works today and how it is likely to change under the Trump proposal. The webinar will explain the current law, proposed changes in the leaked draft, and explain how the national Protecting Immigrant Families campaign (PIF) and partners such as PIF-IL are preparing to both resist and communicate these changes to immigrant families. To register, click [here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

World of 7 Billion Video Contest

The World of 7 Billion contest challenges students to create a short video connecting world population growth to one of three global challenges: preserving biodiversity, sustainable resource use, or human rights. Students can win cash prizes and participating teachers will receive free curriculum resources. The deadline for submissions is **February 28th, 2019**. To learn more, click [here](#).

NASA Engineering Design Challenge

This solicitation is requesting proposals to implement STEM content in OST settings for students in grades 6-8 using a NASA Glenn Engineering Design Challenge (EDC). This challenge provides students the opportunity to work on real-world problems in a collaborative, team-based environment. For more information, contact maria.e.arredondo@nasa.gov The official solicitation request will be released at the **end of October 2018**.

Regeneron Science Talent Search

High school seniors across the United States are invited to share their original research projects and apply to the nation's oldest and most prestigious STEM competition, where

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they could win up to \$250,000. Applications are due **Wednesday November 14th**. To learn more, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

Green Thumb Challenge

The Green Education Foundation is calling on schools and afterschool programs to submit chronicles of their garden projects in a race to win a \$500 prize. The award is designed to support the continued sustainability of an exceptional youth garden program that has demonstrated success, and has impacted the lives of kids and their community. The deadline is **September 30th**. To learn more, click [here](#).

Environmental Education Grant

The EPA seeks grant proposals from eligible applicants to support environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment. This grant program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. The deadline for this solicitation is traditionally in **March**—but it's not too early to build partnerships and develop a project design. To learn more, click [here](#).

Advancing Informal STEM Learning

The Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) program is offering grants to advance new approaches to and evidence-based understanding of the design and development of STEM learning opportunities for the public in informal environments. Applications for this grant are due **Wednesday November 7th**. To learn more, click [here](#).

For a list of previously listed afterschool and youth development related grants, click [here](#).

Resources for Providers

Talking to Children about Terrorism

Having conversations with children about the commemoration of the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks can be difficult. Terrorist attacks in the United States and around the world evoke strong emotions and questions in all of us. This tip sheet has been prepared to provide broad guidelines to help you in these conversations with children. To download this tip sheet, click [here](#).

Science Education Resources Survey

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The University Center for Atmospheric Research's Center for Science Education is conducting a survey of afterschool programs to learn about the types of science education programs they are currently using and what they might be interested in using in the future. If you choose to participate in this survey, you will have a chance to win a \$100 Visa gift card. To participate in this survey, click [here](#).

For a list of previously listed afterschool and youth development resources, click [here](#).

Community Schools Corner

Call for Best Practices!

Are you a Community Schools leader or program provider that has valuable resources or best practices to share with the 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

For a list of previously listed Community Schools resources, click [here](#).