

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy

FY19 Teen REACH Funding

Legislators are back in Springfield for veto session from **November 7th to the 9th**. ACT Now is using this time to keep the conversation going about Teen REACH and fight for FY19 Teen REACH funding! We are helping to circulate a bipartisan letter from legislators to Governor Rauner asking him to include Teen REACH in his FY19 budget. To ask your legislators to sign this letter, click [here](#). To ask Governor Rauner to include Teen REACH in his FY19 budget, click [here](#). Please share these links with program staff and parents!

ISBE Budget Hearing

The Illinois State Board of Education will be holding a budget hearing in Mount Vernon on **Wednesday, November 8th** at the Dr. Nick Osborne Primary Center (401 North 30th St.) and in Chicago on **Friday, November 17th** at the Thompson Center (100 West Randolph St., Conference Room 16-503) to hear budget asks from stakeholders. ACT Now is asking for dedicated funding for afterschool and for it to be managed and allocated in a timely fashion. The FY19 budget hearing schedule can be accessed [here](#). Comments can be emailed to isbeFY19@isbe.net. To access ACT Now's testimony, click [here](#). For a sample partially filled out budget request form (which you must fill out with your contact information and submit with any comments), click [here](#).

ACT Now policy updates affecting the afterschool/youth development field, including information about Teen REACH and 21st Century, can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Event

Juvenile Justice Conversation Series

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office Juvenile Justice Conversation Series will be discussing "Keeping Youth in School and Out of the Justice System" on **Tuesday, November 14, 2017**. The event will be held at Olive-Harvey College, located at 10001 South Woodlawn, Chicago, IL, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. For more information, click

[here](#).

Youth Opportunity

Study Abroad Scholarship

The U.S. Department of State invites U.S. high school students to apply for a full merit-based scholarship to study abroad during the 2018-2019 school year. For more information, click [here](#).

For archived youth opportunities, click [here](#).

Resources

2017 Illinois Report Card

The 2017 Illinois Report Card shows the performance and progress of schools, districts, and the state overall on a wide range of educational metrics. The interactive website can be accessed [here](#).

ESSA Accountability Tracking Tool

Achieve has released a new online tracking tool that summarizes the components of states' accountability plans as submitted to the U.S. Department of Education under the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The tool can be accessed [here](#).

Career Readiness Policies

States across the nation are embracing new policies and legislations which prioritize career studies as well as college readiness as a pathway for preparing students for future success. To read what Illinois and other states are doing, click [here](#).

For a list of afterschool and youth development related resources collected by ACT Now, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

Youth Garden Grant

The 2018 Youth Garden Grant is an award designed to support school and youth educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life for students and their communities. Any nonprofit organization, public or private school, or youth program in the United States planning a new garden program or expanding an established one that serves at least 15 youth between the ages of three and 18 is eligible to apply. Applications are due **Friday, December 8, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Training and Webinars

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



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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