

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy Update

Teen REACH Update

DHS began distributing Teen REACH funding notices on October 28, 2016. Despite the stopgap deadline of December 31, 2016, DHS has indicated that they will provide full payment to programs through June 30, 2017. Teen REACH grant recipients must establish an external Illinois.gov account using the DoIT Identity Management system. Steps for creating an account can be found [here](#).

ISBE Budget Hearing

The Illinois State Board of Education will be holding a budget hearing in Chicago on **Friday, November 18th** at the Thompson Center (100 W. Randolph St., Conference Room 16-503) starting immediately following the Board meeting at approximately 1:00 p.m. There is a separate hearing date in Granite City at the GCHS Atrium (3101 Madison Avenue) from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information, click [here](#).

If you plan to attend either hearing date to provide comments, please contact ACT Now Network Lead, Susan Stanton, at sstanton@voices4kids.org. If you cannot attend the hearing you can email requests to ISBEFY18@isbe.net. To access ACT Now's testimony, click [here](#). For sample talking points, 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](#).

ESSA Round Three of Statewide Listening Tour

Congress passed the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) (ESSA) in December 2015, reauthorizing the nation's largest education law with many much needed updates and revisions. Included in ESSA is language that is favorable to afterschool programs. It is important that afterschool providers point this out to ISBE so that it is incorporated in

Illinois' plan.

The second draft of the plan will be released in mid-November and will be posted at isbe.net/essa. Following the release, ISBE will be hosting its third round of listening tour meetings, which will provide participants an opportunity to engage in a group discussion regarding the ESSA State Plan and a chance to provide feedback. For additional information and to access the listening tour schedule, click [here](#).

21st CCLC RFP Recommendations

The passing of the Every Student Succeeds ACT (ESSA) provides the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) an opportunity to revise its 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) process. Under the guidelines, ISBE must consult with stakeholders who have relevant and demonstrated expertise in 21st CCLC program and activities. In response, ACT Now and its partners have provided ISBE recommendations that would make the RFP process more transparent and supportive of out-of-school time.

We are encouraging 21st CCLC advocates to share these recommendations with their legislators and ISBE. ACT Now has made available its [recommendations](#) as well as a [sample letter to legislators](#) and a [sample letter to ISBE](#). [Here](#) is also a link to send an automated message to your legislators via ACT Now's Action Alert. If you have any questions, please contact ACT Now's Network Lead, Susan Stanton, at sstanton@voices4kids.org or 312-877-0725.

Upcoming Events

NAA16 Virtual Convention

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) will be hosting its second virtual convention **November 6-20, 2016**. For additional details or to register, click [here](#).

Afterschool Development Work Group

The All Stars Project's Afterschool Development Work Group will be convening on **Wednesday, November 30, 2016**, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at 53 West Jackson Blvd, Suite 1135. The group's purpose is to consider how to work together to raise the profile of, and support for, developmental afterschool programs to engage the social crises in our poorest communities. For more information or to join, contact David Cherry at dcherry@allstars.org or 312-994-3100.

Mentoring Networking Breakfast

The Illinois Mentoring Partnership is hosting its second annual IMPACT Awards Breakfast, honoring the champions of youth mentoring, on **Friday, January 27, 2016**. The event will be held from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. at The Union League Club of Chicago, located at 65 West Jackson Blvd. For more information, click [here](#).

Youth Opportunity

Chicago Regional Bridge Building Contest

The 41st Annual Chicago Regional Bridge Building Contest will be held on **Tuesday, January 24, 2017** on the campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology. The competition is open to high school physics and science students who have placed in the top four of a bridge building contest at their school. For more information, click [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

Making Common Core Connections

IAN is offering a training that will assist afterschool providers with linking their programs to Common Core math and reading standards. This workshop will be held on **Tuesday, November 15, 2016**, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Erie Neighborhood House, located at 1347 West Erie in Chicago. For more information, click [here](#). To register, email Jackie Richie at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620.

Controlling the Environment, Not the Child/Youth in Afterschool Programming

IAN will be conducting a regional training on **Tuesday, November 15, 2016** entitled “Controlling the Environment, Not the Child/Youth in Afterschool Programming.” Participants will learn the basics of operating a high-quality afterschool program and how to create a “PEACE-PLACE” for their students. This session will be held at Menard Hall on the campus of Lincoln Land Community College, located at 5250 Shepherd Road, Springfield, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. For more information, click [here](#). Contact Jackie Richie at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620 to register.

Building 21st Century Skills through Global Learning

Foundations, Inc., a nonprofit committed to improving educational experiences for America's children and youth throughout the day, will be hosting their next live online quarterly discussion on **Wednesday, November 16, 2016** at 12:00 p.m. This session will aid afterschool, expanded learning, and out-of-school time practitioners with helping youth to make meaningful connections with the wider world through innovative strategies and hands-on projects. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Using Your Space Creatively

Join Click2Science on **November 16, 2016** at 1:00pm for their upcoming Webinar Wednesday entitled "Using Your Space Creatively." Learn strategies for inspiring STEM learning by maximizing the program space. Click [here](#) for more information or to register for this event.

State ESSA Plan to Support Student Health and Wellness

The Healthy Schools Campaign and Alliance for Healthier Generation are hosting a webinar entitled "Healthy and Ready to Learn: State ESSA Plans to Support Student Health and Wellness" on **Thursday, November 17, 2016** at 11:00am. This session will help school health advocates and others better understand how, through ESSA, they can integrate health and wellness into education policy and practice. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

West 40 Youth Health Focused Workshops

West 40 is hosting youth health focused professional development workshops in November and December 2016. All events will be held at the West 40 Intermediate Service Center No. 2, located at 4413 West Roosevelt Road, Hillside, IL. For more information or to register for these events, click on the links below.

- [November 17th: Nurse Network Meeting](#)
- [December 5th: Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health 3 Trainings Workshop](#)

Prioritizing Social Emotional Learning

The American Youth Policy Forum is holding a webinar on **Wednesday, November 30, 2016** from 2:00 p.m. until 3:15 p.m. entitled "Bringing Social and Emotional Learning to the Forefront: What Happens When Districts Prioritize SEL?" The session will feature a panel of researchers and practitioners who will share what coordinated and purposeful SEL looks like in practice. Click [here](#) for additional details or to register.

Homework Strategies

IAN will be conducting a regional training on “Making Meaningful Connections Between In-School and Out-of-School Time: Homework Strategies in Action!” on **Tuesday, December 6, 2016**. The session will be held at Sports Hub, located at 250 Civic Center Plaza in Glendale Heights, IL from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Workshop participants will learn new solutions to typical homework help barriers and be provided tips and resources for assisting youth in afterschool programs. For more information, click [here](#). To register, email Jackie Richie at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620.

Resources

Illinois Quality Standards Provider Handbook

Informed by participants of ACT Now's Quality Standards trainings throughout the state, the Provider Handbook assists afterschool programs with the roadblocks they may encounter in implementing the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards. To find out how fellow providers maneuver around challenges that are beyond their control when striving for quality, click [here](#). To access additional Quality Standards resources, click [here](#).

NAA Code of Ethics for Afterschool Professionals

The National AfterSchool Association's (NAA) Code of Ethics for Afterschool Professionals outlines the personal and professional standards of those working in the afterschool field. It defines the principles and practices that are inherent in providing afterschool programs for children ages five through 18. It also speaks to the afterschool professional's ethical responsibilities towards building relationships with and among children, families, colleagues, and the community. To access, click [here](#).

Competency-Based Learning Under ESSA

In a recent Forum for Thought, Jennifer Brown Lerner, Deputy Director of the American Youth Policy Forum, addresses ESSA's support for competency-based learning. To read more, click [here](#).

STEM Pathways to Healthy Eating and Physical Activity

In “STEM Pathways to Healthy Eating and Physical Activity,” the National AfterSchool Association highlights how out-of-School time STEM programs are ideal for motivating and educating young people to live healthier lifestyles. Incorporating STEM activities that focus on understanding nutrition, reading food labels, and exploring the environment provides youth the tools they need to make healthy choices. For more ideas on how to use STEM to promote wholesome eating and increase physical activity, click [here](#).

Chicago STEM Pathways Cooperative Landscape Survey

The Chicago STEM Pathways Cooperative is conducting a STEM out-of-school time (OST) landscape survey on programs offered in Chicago between January 1 and December 31, 2015. The findings will help the Cooperative understand how the Chicago STEM OST community is serving youth and families, identify gaps in service, and inform future work to better meet community needs. The survey must be completed by **Saturday, December 31, 2016**. Participants will receive a \$5 Starbucks gift card as a thank you for filling out the survey. To take the Assessing Chicago OST STEM Opportunities 3.0 survey, click [here](#).

Opportunities for Afterschool Providers

Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award

The Afterschool Alliance and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation are accepting nominations for outstanding afterschool programs that have demonstrated excellence providing literacy support to English language learner students. The Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award winner will be awarded \$10,000 for their program that will be presented at the Afterschool for All Challenge in Washington, D.C. For eligibility requirements or to access the nomination form questions, click [here](#). Nominations will close on **Friday, December 16, 2016**.

Funding Opportunities

Afterschool Meals Grant

No Kid Hungry Illinois is offering mini-grants up to \$2,500 that can be used by schools, child care centers, and eligible non-profit or for-profit organizations to help maximize their ability to serve full supper meals through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk After-School Meals Program. Grants may be used toward staffing, equipment, outreach materials, transportation, and other program costs. To apply for

funding you will need to first create an account using the access code: ILCACFP2017. Applications must be submitted by Friday, November 18, 2016. The grant portal can be accessed [here](#).

School Breakfast Grant

The No Kid Hungry Illinois Breakfast Grant provides 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. To apply for funding you will need to first create an account using the access code: ILBREAKFAST2017. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, November 18, 2016**. The grant portal can be accessed [here](#).



Read more about the [ACT Now Coalition](#). Please send any information you would like included in the next newsletter to SStanton@voices4kids.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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