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Policy Updates

ISBE Budget Hearings

ISBE is hosting three public hearings this fall to gather requests to inform ISBE's fiscal year 2020 budget recommendations for pre-K through 12th-grade educational service providers statewide. All individuals – including those attending a hearing in person – should submit their comments and stories by completing a [budget request form](#) and emailing the form to isbeFY20@isbe.net.

The public budget hearings for FY 2020 will take place in:

- **Springfield – Wednesday, Oct. 17th:** Immediately following the Board meeting (approximately 11 a.m.) in the Board Room at ISBE (100 N. First St.)
- **Mount Vernon – Wednesday, Oct. 24th:** 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Dr. Nick Osborne Primary Center (401 North 30th St.)
- **Chicago – Friday, Nov. 16th:** Immediately following the Board meeting (approximately 11 a.m.) in Conference Room 16-503 at the Thompson Center (100 W. Randolph St.)

Additional resources and information will continue to be posted on ISBE's [Budget webpage](#).

Trainings and Events

Webinar: Learn More About Your School--To Change It!

COFI/POWER-PAC IL, ACT Now, and Partners for Each and Every Child welcome you to join us online and in person for a learning session on Illinois' school report cards, the new ESSA law, and how parents can work with their schools and school districts to improve results for ALL children! With special guests from the Illinois State Board of Education, we will dive into the new information available to you about your child's school, and how to use it to advocate for change.

Participate in-Person

- To register to participate, call COFI: (312) 226-5141

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- When: **October 3, 2018, 10am - 12pm Central**
- Where: Join us at one of our in-person locations in Chicago, East St. Louis, and East Aurora. Refreshments and child care will be provided.
- Learn More: All the materials and information will be available at partnersforeachandeverychild.org/schoolchangeil/

Participate Online

- [Register here to participate online](#)
- When: **October 3, 2018, 10:30am - 11:30am Central**
- Where: Join us online [here](#).
- Learn More: All the materials and information will be available at partnersforeachandeverychild.org/schoolchangeil/

Webinar: Community Organizers

Join Community School Superintendent Leadership Award winner, Dr. Matt Wayne, of Hayward Unified School District and Community School Initiative Leadership Award winner, Jill Pereira, Vice President of Education at the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley in Allentown to learn about how to use the community schools strategy to transform schools and mobilize leadership to leverage assets from within your community to support student learning. This webinar will be held **October 5th, 2018 from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM**. To learn more or to register, click [here](#).

Webinar: Lights On Afterschool Toolkit

Join ACT Now to learn about planning and preparing for a Lights On Afterschool (LOA) event, as well as how to utilize our [LOA Toolkit](#). This webinar will take place **Friday, October 5th from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.** To register, click [here](#).

Quality Standards Trainings

ACT Now is providing [free trainings](#) on the Illinois Statewide Quality Standards in order to help afterschool providers and staff continuously improve the quality of their programs.

Upcoming Trainings:

Bloomington: October 9th, 2018—9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ([Register here](#))
Chicago: October 15th, 2018—9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register here](#))

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Carbondale: October 17th, 2018–9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register here](#))

Moline: October 22nd, 2018–9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register here](#))

Chicago: November 12th, 2018–9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register here](#))

The State of Afterschool in Illinois 2018

ACT Now created the Afterschool Map & Database to define the afterschool landscape for policymakers, help to better connect programs to one another, help community members to find programs in their area, and help to better target resources to communities in need. Join ACT Now to learn about the current afterschool landscape in Illinois and what you can do to help grow the field and provide more amazing opportunities to Illinois' youth! This event will be held **Wednesday, October 31st from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the ACT Now office**. To learn more, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

eCYBERMISSION

eCYBERMISSION, an Army Educational Outreach Program, is a free web-based STEM competition for students in grades 6-9. The program is committed to answering the nation's need for increased national STEM literacy and to expanding STEM education opportunities across the country to open doors to new career paths for American students that lead to a brighter tomorrow. eCM is looking for educators, community leaders, parents, and professionals interested in STEM to create teams of students. Registration is open now! **Register by November 21st** and your students will receive a free STEM Kit. To register, click [here](#).

ExploraVision Program

Toshiba and the National Science Teachers Association are kicking off the 27th annual [ExploraVision](#) program, which tasks students to use problem solving, critical thinking, and teamwork to imagine solutions to real-life issues. Participants will have a chance to win a number of prizes, including \$10,000 U.S. Series EE Savings Bonds (at maturity). The application deadline is **February 12th, 2019**. To learn more, click [here](#).

STEMfest

Attend the Midwest's premier festival for celebrating science, technology, engineering and math. Northern Illinois University STEM departments, student groups, regional corporations, museums, educators, and national labs are joining forces to present hundreds of activities that range in complexity to entertain people of all ages, and admission is FREE. This event will be held **Saturday, October 27th, 2018, 10am-5pm @ the NIU Convocation Center**. To learn more, click [here](#).

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For a list of previously listed youth opportunities, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

#ThisIsSTEM Program

Pitsco's #ThisIsSTEM program invites afterschool program providers to submit information about what STEM means to them. The program challenges traditional thinking about STEM and encourages failure, success, and a-ha moments. Afterschool program providers can enter to win \$500 toward Pitsco products. There is currently no deadline for application. To learn more, click [here](#).

For a list of previously listed funding opportunities, click [here](#).

Resources for Providers

Talking to Students about Sexual Assault

Given the national conversation, youth around the nation have heard a lot in the media about sexual assault lately. Conversations about sexual assault should be a part of the safety conversations you're already having, like knowing when to speak up, how to take care of friends, and listening to your gut. The key is to start these conversations when kids are young, and have these conversations often. Teach young children the language they need to talk about their bodies and information about boundaries to help them understand what is allowed and what is inappropriate. These lessons help them know when something isn't right and give them the power to speak up. To read more, click [here](#).

Community Schools Corner

Community Schools: 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