

ACTNOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy Update

Donald Trump Won. What's Next for Afterschool?

In a post-election blog the Afterschool Alliance examined President-elect Trump's proposals and public statements, as well as the Republican Party platform, to get a sense of what the afterschool community can expect from the next president. To read more on what K-12 education and child care could possibly expect under a Trump Administration, click [here](#).

In response to the upcoming change in leadership, the Afterschool Alliance has sent a memo to Trump's transition team calling for continued support of children and working parents through leveraging federal funds used by local school and community based-afterschool and summer learning programs. For additional details, click [here](#).

Teen 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](#).

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. ISBE is working on its plan to implement this new law, which provides Illinois with many opportunities to tailor implementation to our needs. You can find ISBE's draft plan [here](#).

There is a lot of language in ESSA that is very favorable to afterschool programs—even programs outside of 21st Century. It is important that afterschool providers point this out to ISBE so that it is included in Illinois' plan.

ISBE is holding a listening tour on its draft plan. You can find dates and details [here](#). We encourage providers to attend the listening tour and provide comments on the plan. You can find ACT Now's testimony [here](#), sample comments for providers [here](#), and abbreviated talking points [here](#). Remember it is always more effective to individualize your comments to your programs' specific needs, for example including examples of how your program promotes family engagement, STEM, or College and Career Readiness. If you cannot make tour dates in person, you can submit comments electronically to essa@isbe.net. All comments are due by **Tuesday, December 27th**. Please contact Susan Stanton, ACT Now Network Lead, at sstanton@voices4kids.org, with any questions.

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

Computer Science Education Week Tweet Chat

In celebration of National Computer Science Education Week, the Afterschool Alliance and National AfterSchool Association will be hosting a computer science in afterschool tweet chat on **Wednesday, December 7, 2016** at 1:00 p.m. Using the hashtag #afterschoolCS, participants will have an opportunity to trade success stories and share challenges.

Mentoring 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

Diverse Learners - How Difficult Can This Be?

IAN is offering a training that will assist afterschool providers with helping youth with learning disabilities. This workshop will be held on **Wednesday, December 7, 2016**, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at BUILD - Chicago, located at 5100 West Harrison in Chicago. For more information, click [here](#). To register, email Jackie Richie at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620.

Mentoring in the Face of Community Violence

A webinar on equipping mentors to support young people who have experienced or witnessed community violence will be held on **Wednesday, December 7, 2016**, from 12:00 p.m. until 1:15 p.m. It will provide participants with practical tools and strategies to support their community through traumatic events. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Leveraging Youth Voice and Advocacy to Support Pathways to Success

The American Youth Policy Forum is holding a webinar on **Wednesday, December 7, 2016** from 2:30 p.m. until 3:45 p.m. on youth advocacy and civic engagement. The

session will feature the voices of young people and highlight programs that are effectively leveraging youth voice and advocacy to promote positive policy changes and opportunities for youth development. Click [here](#) for additional details and to register.

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

IAN will be conducting a regional training on **Thursday, December 8, 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 GiGi’s Playhouse, located at 3906 38th Avenue in Moline, IL, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. For more information, click [here](#). Contact Jackie Richie at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620 to register.

Youth and Resilience Professional Development Training Series

The Night Ministry and the National Runaway Safeline (NRS) will be hosting its next installment of the Youth & Resilience Professional Development Training Series entitled “Creative Approaches to Engaging Youth” on **Wednesday, December 14, 2016**. The workshop will be held, from 12:30 p.m. through 4:00 p.m. at the NRS office, located at 3141B North Lincoln, Chicago. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Knowing When STEM Learning Runs Deep

Join Click2Science on **December 14, 2016** at 1:00pm for their upcoming Webinar Wednesday entitled “Knowing When STEM Learning Runs Deep.” Learn useful ways for assessing out-of-school time STEM learning using formative and summative evaluation strategies. Click [here](#) for more information or to register for this event.

Resources

Glow On Try This

In this month’s National AfterSchool Association STEM Gem activity, participants will use water of varying temperatures and glow sticks to help them understand the properties of a chemical reaction. To view the lesson plan, click [here](#).

Making Authentic Assessments of STEM Learning

Click2Science's December learning modules are designed to assist out-of-school time staff with gauging youth understanding of STEM. Program elements include developing a rubric in partnership with youth to assess outcomes and utilizing facilitation strategies that allow for assessment during the learning process. For more information, click [here](#). Click [here](#) to register for the December 14th, "Knowing When STEM Learning Runs Deep," webinar.

The Impact of Afterschool STEM: Examples from the Field

The Afterschool Alliance's most recent report, "The Impact of Afterschool STEM: Examples from the Field," summarizes evaluation data from a selection of strong afterschool STEM programs across the U.S. It provides a snapshot of the types of substantive impacts afterschool programs are having in successfully engaging youth in STEM. To read more, 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

2016 Youth Development Practitioner Award Nominations

The US Play Coalition in partnership with Clemson University's Youth Learning Institute is accepting nominations for the 2016 Youth Development Practitioner Award. The award recognizes outstanding performance in the creation and implementation of youth development programs or services. Nominations will be accepted through **Thursday, December 15, 2016**. For more information, click [here](#).

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**.



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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