

ACT NOW: Afterschool for Children and Teens

SENATE BILL 3543: After-School Youth Development Program Act

(Sens. Hutchinson – Martinez – Millner – Lightford – Demuzio, Steans, Noland, Raoul, Delgado, Harmon, Link, Collins, Crotty)

(Reps. J. Gordon - W. Davis - Sente - Coulson - Riley, Dugan, Chapa LaVia, Eddy, Sullivan, Jakobsson, Burns, Farnham, Golar, Harris, Boland, Hernandez, Fritchey, Colvin, Lyons, Osterman, Ford, Dunkin, Graham, Soto, Smith, Verschoore)

Quality after-school programs help youth succeed by developing critical academic, career, and life skills. Youth who participate in such programs have lower drop-out rates and higher graduation rates. After-school activities help keep youth and communities safe by reducing risky behavior including crime and violence, drug and alcohol abuse and sexual activity

Despite these proven results, most youth lack access to quality after-school programs. Approximately half of all K – 12 children are either responsible for themselves or are left in a sibling’s care after school hours.

What the After-school Youth Development Program Act Does

The After-school Youth Development Program Act creates a framework for coordinating and strengthening after-school services in Illinois. By creating the Illinois Youth Development Council, the act establishes mechanisms to **create accountability** for after-school programs. The Council will:

- Make public recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor concerning system-wide goals, alignment of youth development services, and resource alignment.
- Include public and private sector representation, including four members of the General Assembly, chief administrators of key state agencies and community stakeholders.
- Increase program participation and quality by providing technical assistance, capacity building, and program evaluation and monitoring
- Identify and address gaps in service while minimizing duplication of services
- Develop standard, measurable indicators of program quality and successful outcomes
- Collect and rigorously analyze the data on the effectiveness of state and locally supported after-school programs

The act creates a three-year After-school Demonstration Period that will be administered by the Department of Human Services to evaluate the impact, outcomes and cost of quality after-school programs, while simultaneously strengthening participating programs.

- Participants would include eligible entities providing after-school programs with the capacity to provide quality services, collaborate with community stakeholders and show cost-effectiveness. Existing programs with experience in providing after-school services in Illinois would be given priority for participation in the Demonstration Program, although new entities will also be eligible.
- Outcomes of the Demonstration Period - as determined by an independent evaluator - will be reported to the General Assembly and the Governor and heard before legislative committees. A positive evaluation would put the state on a path to developing a plan for improving access to after-school programs.

For more information or to join ACT Now, contact Kelley Talbot at Ktalbot@voices4kids.org or 312.516.5572

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Organizations Supporting the ACT Now Campaign

Advance Illinois
After School Matters
Alternative Schools Network
America SCORES Chicago
Applied Scholastics International
Better Boys Foundation
Boys and Girls Club of Chicago
Brain Hurricane
BUILD
Building Better Youth through Sports (BBY Sports)
Casa Central
Centro Romero
Center of Halsted
Center for New Horizons
Charles Hayes Center
Chess Academy LLC
Chicago Area Project
Chicago Department of Family and Support Services
Chicago Housing Authority
Chicago Metropolis 2020
Chicago Out-of-School Time Project
Chicago Police Department
Chicago Public Schools
Chicago Urban League
Chicago Training Centers
Chicago Youth Centers
Chinese American Service League
Child Care Resource and Referral
Child Link
Children's Home and Aid
Community Assistance Programs
Comer Science and Education Fd.
Family Network - After School Activity Program
Decatur Area Education Coalition
Donors Forum
Elijah's House
Erie Neighborhood House and the Erie Elementary
Charter School
Farther Foundation
Fight Crime Invest in Kids Illinois
Fleetwood - Jourdan Community Center
FOUS Youth Development Services
Gary Comer Youth Center
Golden Apple Foundation
Hull House Association
Hyde Park Neighborhood Club
ICARE Ministries
Illinois Action for Children
Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention
Illinois After-school Alliance
Illinois After-school Network
Illinois Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
Illinois Association of Park Districts
Illinois Center for Violence Prevention
Illinois Task Force on African American Males, IDHS
Latino Policy Forum
Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth
Marion Stamps Youth Center
Metropolitan Family Services
Mikva Challenge
Mujeres Latinas En Acci3n
Murphysboro Youth & Rec Center
MWAH! Performing Arts Troupe
Onward House
Paul Revere Elementary
Phalanx Family Services
RBC Community Service Center
Robert Emmet School
Sankofa Safe Child Initiative
SES OF ILLINOIS
Sunlight African Community Center
The Chicago Training Center
The Federation for Community Schools
The Intonation Music Workshop
Union League Boys & Girls Club
Urban Initiatives
Voices for Illinois Children
West Town Academy
YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Street Intervention Program
Youth Guidance
Youth Organizations Umbrella (Y.O.U.)
Youth Outreach Services
Zam's Hope CRC