Support K-12 Computer Science Education in Maryland

Computer science drives job growth and innovation throughout our economy and society. Computing occupations are the number 1 source of all new wages in the U.S. and make up over half of all projected new jobs in STEM fields, making Computer Science one of the most in-demand college degrees. And computing is used all around us and in virtually every field. It’s foundational knowledge that all students need. But computer science is marginalized throughout education. Fewer than half of U.S. schools offer any computer science courses and only 8% of STEM graduates study it. We need to improve access for all students, including groups who have traditionally been underrepresented.

93% of parents want their child's school to teach computer science, but only 40% of schools teach it.

75% of Americans believe computer science is cool in a way it wasn’t 10 years ago.

67% of parents and 56% of teachers believe students should be required to learn computer science.

50% of Americans rank computer science as one of the two most important subjects of study after reading and writing.

Students who learn computer science in high school are 6 times more likely to major in it, and women are 10 times more likely.

Computer science in Maryland

- Maryland currently has 21,488 open computing jobs (4.9 times the average demand rate in Maryland).
- The average salary for a computing occupation in MD is $100,812, which is significantly higher than the average salary in the state ($56,120). The existing open jobs alone represent a $2,166,248,256 opportunity in terms of annual salaries.
- Maryland had only 2,923 computer science graduates in 2015; only 20% were female.
- Only 4,443 exams were taken in AP Computer Science by high school students in Maryland in 2017 (1,927 took AP CS A and 2,516 took AP CSP).
- Only 31% were female (24% for AP CS A and 35% for AP CSP); only 345 exams were taken by Hispanic or Latino students (148 took AP CS A and 197 took AP CSP); only 578 exams were taken by Black students (218 took AP CS A and 360 took AP CSP); no exams were taken by American Indian or Alaska Native students; only 3 exams were taken by Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students (0 took AP CS A and 3 took AP CSP).
- Only 150 schools in MD (42% of MD schools with AP programs) offered an AP Computer Science course in 2016-2017 (35% offered AP CS A and 31% offered AP CSP), which is 35 more than the previous year.
- Universities in Maryland did not graduate a single new teacher prepared to teach computer science in 2016.
- According to a representative survey from Google/Gallup, school administrators in MD support expanding computer science education opportunities: 76% of principals surveyed think CS is just as or more important
than required core classes. And their biggest barrier to offering computer science is the lack of funds for hiring and training teachers.

What can you do to improve K-12 CS education?

1. Call on your school to expand computer science offerings at every grade level.
2. Ask your local school district to allow computer science courses to satisfy a core math or science requirement.
3. Visit www.code.org/educate/3rdparty to find out about courses and curriculum from a variety of third parties, including Code.org.
4. Visit www.code.org/promote/MD to learn more about supporting computer science in your state.
5. Sign the petition at www.change.org/computerscience to join 100,000 Americans asking Congress to support computer science.

Code.org's Impact in Maryland

There are 10,032 teacher accounts and 391,993 student accounts on Code.org in Maryland.

Code.org, its regional partner(s) Maryland Codes, and 25 facilitators have provided professional learning for 517 teachers in CS Fundamentals (K-5), 164 teachers in Exploring Computer Science or Computer Science Discoveries, and 73 teachers in Computer Science Principles in Maryland.

“Computer Science is a liberal art: it’s something that everybody should be exposed to and everyone should have a mastery of to some extent.”

— Steve Jobs

What can your state do to improve computer science education?

States and local school districts need to adopt a broad policy framework to provide all students with access to computer science. The following nine recommendations are a menu of best practices that states can choose from to support and expand computer science. Not all states will be in a position to adopt all of the policies. Read more about these 9 policy ideas at https://code.org/files/Making_CS_Fundamental.pdf and see our rubric for describing state policies at http://bit.ly/9policiesrubric.

☐ Maryland is in the process of developing a state plan for K-12 computer science.
Maryland is in the process of developing K-12 computer science standards.

☑️ Maryland has allocated funding for rigorous computer science professional development and course support.

☑️ Maryland has clear certification pathways for computer science teachers.

☑️ Maryland has established programs at institutions of higher education to offer computer science to preservice teachers.

☐ Maryland has dedicated computer science positions in local education authorities. The state should consider creating a statewide computer science leadership position within the state education authority to expand state-level implementation of computer science education initiatives.

☑️ Maryland requires that all secondary schools offer computer science.


☑️ Maryland allows computer science to count as a core admission requirement at institutions of higher education.

Follow us!

Join our efforts to give every student in every school the opportunity to learn computer science. Learn more at code.org, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Launched in 2013, Code.org® is a non-profit dedicated to expanding access to computer science, and increasing participation by women and underrepresented students of color. Our vision is that every student in every school should have the opportunity to learn computer science.

Data is from the Conference Board for job demand, the Bureau of Labor Statistics for state salary and national job projections data, the College Board for AP exam data, the National Center for Education Statistics for university graduate data, the Gallup and Google research study Education Trends in the State of Computer Science in U.S. K-12 Schools for schools that offer computer science and parent demand, and Code.org for its own courses, professional learning programs, and participation data.