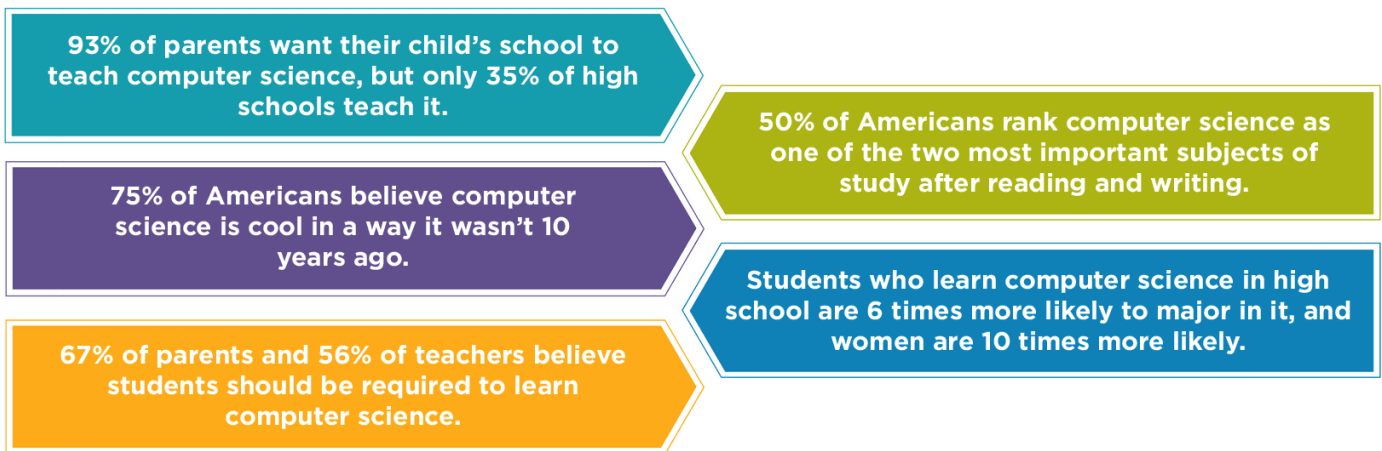
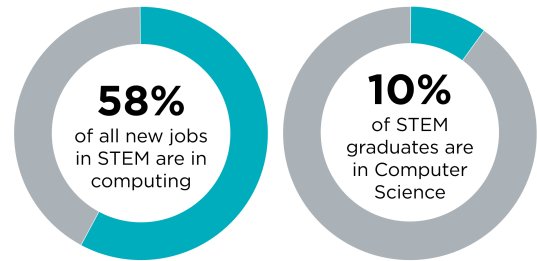


# Support K-12 Computer Science Education in New Jersey

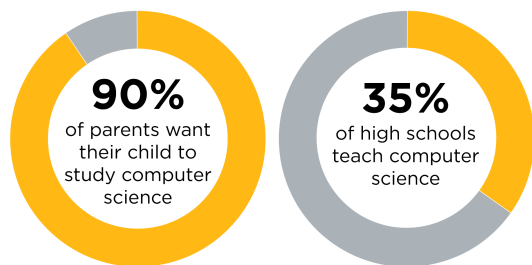
Computer science drives job growth and innovation throughout our economy and society. Computing occupations are the **number 1 source of all new wages in the U.S.** and make up over half of all projected new jobs in STEM fields, making Computer Science one of the most in-demand college degrees. And computing 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. Only 35% of U.S. high schools teach any computer science courses and only 10% of STEM graduates study it. We need to improve access for all students, including groups who have traditionally been underrepresented.



## Computer science in New Jersey

- New Jersey currently has **15,523 open computing jobs** (2.9 times the average demand rate in New Jersey).
- The average salary for a computing occupation in NJ is **\$107,260**, which is significantly higher than the average salary in the state (\$56,970). The existing open jobs alone represent a **\$1,664,995,583 opportunity** in terms of annual salaries.
- New Jersey had only **1,642 computer science graduates** in 2017; only **17%** were female.
- Only **6,617 exams were taken in AP Computer Science by high school students** in New Jersey in 2018 (3,853 took AP CS A and 2,764 took AP CSP).
- Only 28% were female (25% for AP CS A and 33% for AP CSP); only 750 exams were taken by Hispanic or Latino students (354 took AP CS A and 396 took AP CSP); only 237 exams were taken by Black students (133 took AP CS A and 104 took AP CSP); only 5 exams were taken by American Indian or Alaska Native students (5 took AP CS A and 0 took AP CSP); only 8 exams were taken by Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students (2 took AP CS A and 6 took AP CSP).
- Only **253 schools** in NJ (45% of NJ schools with AP programs) offered an AP Computer Science course in 2017-2018 (41% offered AP CS A and 25% offered AP CSP), which is 34 more than the previous year.
- Universities in New Jersey only graduated 3 new teachers prepared to teach computer science in 2016.
- According to a representative survey from Google/Gallup, school administrators in NJ support expanding

computer science education opportunities: 75% 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](http://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/NJ](http://www.code.org/promote/NJ) to learn more about supporting computer science in your state.
5. Sign the petition at [www.change.org/computerscience](http://www.change.org/computerscience) to join 100,000 Americans asking Congress to support computer science.

## Code.org's Impact in New Jersey

- In New Jersey, Code.org's curriculum is used in
  - 21% of elementary schools
  - 21% of middle schools
  - 14% of high schools
- There are 11,692 teacher accounts and 571,666 student accounts on Code.org in New Jersey.
- Of students in New Jersey using Code.org curriculum last school year,
  - 32% attend high needs schools
  - 6% are in rural schools
  - 47% are female students
  - 48% are underrepresented minority students (Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, or Hawaiian)
- Code.org, its regional partner(s) TCNJ Center for Excellence in STEM Education, and 10 facilitators have provided professional learning in New Jersey for
  - 3,119 teachers in CS Fundamentals (K-5)
  - 74 teachers in Exploring Computer Science or Computer Science Discoveries
  - 42 teachers in Computer Science Principles

**“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](https://code.org/files/Making_CS_Fundamental.pdf) and see our rubric for describing state policies at <http://bit.ly/9policiesrubric>.

- New Jersey **has not** yet created a state plan for K-12 computer science. A plan that articulates the goals for computer science, strategies for accomplishing the goals, and timelines for carrying out the strategies is important for making computer science a fundamental part of a state's education system.
- New Jersey has established K-12 computer science standards.
- New Jersey has allocated funding for rigorous computer science professional development and course support.
- New Jersey has clear certification pathways for computer science teachers.
- New Jersey **has not yet** established programs at institutions of higher education to offer computer science to preservice teachers. The computer science teacher shortage can be addressed by exposing more preservice teachers to computer science during their required coursework or by creating specific pathways for computer science teachers.
- New Jersey **does not yet** have dedicated computer science positions in state or local education agencies. Creating a statewide computer science leadership position within the state education agency can help expand state-level implementation of computer science education initiatives. Similar positions at the local level could support districts' expansion of course offerings and professional development.
- New Jersey requires that all secondary schools offer computer science.
- New Jersey allows computer science to count for a core graduation requirement. Find out how New Jersey allows computer science to count towards graduation at <http://bit.ly/9policies>.
- New Jersey **does not yet** allow computer science to count as a core admission requirement at institutions of higher education. Admission policies that do not include rigorous computer science courses as meeting a core entrance requirement, such as in mathematics or science, discourage students from taking such courses in secondary education. State leaders can work with institutions of higher education to ensure credit and articulation policies align with secondary school graduation requirements.

## Follow us!

Join our efforts to give every student in every school the opportunity to learn computer science. Learn more at [code.org](https://code.org), or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Launched in 2013, Code.org® is a nonprofit 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 parent demand, the 2018 Computer Science Access Report for schools that offer computer science, and Code.org for its own courses, professional learning programs, and participation data.