Support K-12 Computer Science Education in New York

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.

New York currently has 34,117 open computing jobs (4.7 times the average demand rate in New York).

- The average salary for a computing occupation in NY is $103,853, which is significantly higher than the average salary in the state ($60,100). The existing open jobs alone represent a $3,543,169,518 opportunity in terms of annual salaries.
- New York had only 3,801 computer science graduates in 2015; only 18% were female.
- Only 8,036 exams were taken in AP Computer Science by high school students in New York in 2017 (3,734 took AP CS A and 4,302 took AP CSP).
- Only 339 schools in NY (23% of NY schools with AP programs) offered an AP Computer Science course in 2016-2017 (16% offered AP CS A and 14% offered AP CSP), which is 139 more than the previous year. There are fewer AP exams taken in computer science than in any other STEM subject area.
- Universities in New York did not graduate a single new teacher prepared to teach computer science in 2016.
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/NY 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 New York

- In New York, Code.org’s curriculum is used in
  - 18% of elementary schools
  - 14% of middle schools
  - 13% of high schools
- There are 21,395 teacher accounts and 995,265 student accounts on Code.org in New York.
- Of students in New York using Code.org curriculum last school year,
  - 57% attend high needs schools
  - 14% are in rural schools
  - 47% are female students
  - 55% are underrepresented minority students (Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, or Hawaiian)
- Code.org, its regional partner(s) Code/Interactive and WNY STEM Hub, and 20 facilitators have provided professional learning in New York for
  - 2,167 teachers in CS Fundamentals (K-5)
  - 194 teachers in Exploring Computer Science or Computer Science Discoveries
  - 148 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 and see our rubric for describing state policies at http://bit.ly/9policiesrubric.

☐ New York 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 York does not yet have rigorous computer science standards publicly available across K-12. Computer science has often been confused with broader technology education in schools. The state could strengthen its computer science programs by publicly adopting discrete standards for computer science focused on both the creation and use of software and computing technologies at all levels of K-12 education. These standards can be guided by the concepts, practices, and recommendations in the K-12 Computer Science Framework, found at http://www.k12cs.org.

✔ New York has allocated funding for rigorous computer science professional development and course support.

✔ New York has clear certification pathways for computer science teachers.

☐ New York 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 York 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 York does not yet require that all secondary schools offer computer science. The state can support the expansion of computer science courses by adopting policies that require schools to offer a computer science course based on rigorous standards, with appropriate implementation timelines and allowing for remote and/or in-person courses.

✔ New York has passed policy that is permissive and encouraging for schools to allow computer science to count for a core graduation requirement, but it is not a requirement for schools. Find out how New York allows computer science to count towards graduation at http://bit.ly/9policies.

☐ New York 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, 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.