Computer Science for All - Minnesota
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Computer Science (CS) Education Advancement Act Summary

On May 24, 2023, Governor Walz signed the K-12 education omnibus bill, including the CS Education Advancement Program (Section 61, beginning on line 103.28). This bill seeks to address Minnesota's standing as last in the nation for CS (see 2022 State of CS Education).

CS Education Advancement Act Components:
See pg. 2 for additional information or the bill link above for specific language.
1. Defines computer science and related terms
2. Requires the Department of Education (MDE) to employ a CS supervisor
3. Creates a CS Working Group to develop a state strategic plan for K-12 CS education by March 22, 2024.
4. Increases CS educator training and builds capacity by providing funding through grants or subcontracts aligned to the state strategic plan.
5. All teacher preparation programs will include grade-level and subject-area appropriate CS instruction by July 1, 2027.
6. All high schools will be required to report CS course offerings and enrollment data, including data disaggregated by gender, race, ethnicity, free and reduced-price lunch status, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act status, 504 status, and English language learner status.

Key Takeaways For School Districts:
- The working group will create a plan by which all public schools and public charter schools will teach CS within 5 years.
- All high schools must report CS course offerings and enrollment data to MDE.
- The CS Working Group will include at least 5 educators (a library media specialist; an elementary, middle, and high school teacher, and a CTE teacher) and 2 high school students.
- The state strategic plan will provide recommendations about:
  - CS standards
  - Requiring each school to employ a licensed CS teacher
  - High school credit equivalencies for CS courses

Key Takeaways For Teacher Preparation Programs:
- Programs have until July 1, 2027 to add CS instruction that lead to professional certification.
- CS instruction will be appropriate to the grade-level and subject-area. (Currently, MDE has integrated CS in new subject area standards; see MDE Computer Science.)
- The CS Working Group will include representation from MACTE and PELSB.
- The state strategic plan will recommend CS teacher licensure options.
- The Act provides funding to support adding CS to teacher preparation programs.

CS Education Advancement Act Details

1. **Defines Computer Science & Related Terms**
   a. CS is "the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, their hardware and software designs, their implementation, and their impact on society."
   b. Also defines CS courses and content, high quality CS educator training, and high quality CS professional learning providers

2. **Requires the Department of Education (MDE) to Employ a CS Supervisor.** Apply here (Search for Job ID 66434).

3. **Creates a CS Working Group** to develop a state strategic plan for K-12 CS education.
   a. October 1, 2023 - MDE appoints 21 members who represent state government, teachers, students, higher education, nonprofits, and other stakeholders. Apply here.
   b. February 29, 2024 - MDE publishes state plan for feedback.
   c. March 22, 2024 - MDE presents the adopted state plan to the legislature.
   d. Specific components of the plan include a summary of the current K12 CS landscape, options for CS teacher licensure, expanding CS education in every public and charter school within 5 years while ensuring equity, identifying high quality CS professional learning providers, ongoing evaluation process, proposed rules that incorporate principles of the plan into the state's education system, recommendations for long-term expansion and sustainability (every school has a certified CS teacher, high school credit equivalency for CS, development of K-12 CS standards, training for preservice teachers in CS education), description of gaps in CS education access, participation, and success (by geography and student demographics) and how to address those gaps.

4. **CS Educator Training and Capacity Building** - grants or subcontracts to support teacher recruitment and training aligned to the state strategic plan, including reporting.

5. **Teacher Preparation** - all teacher preparation programs will include grade-level and subject-area appropriate CS instruction by July 1, 2027.

6. **CS Education Data Collection** - all high schools will be required to report CS course offerings and enrollment data, including data disaggregated by gender, race, ethnicity, free and reduced-price lunch status, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act status, 504 status, and English language learner status.