CollegeBoard

February 10, 2020

The College Board enthusiastically supports the introduction of HB 4098 by Representative Diego Hernandez.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in computer and information technology occupations is projected to grow 12 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. These occupations are expected to add about 488,500 new jobs, raising the overall job demand to about 4.4 million. There will also be a significant number of new jobs in over the next decade in other fields that require computer science skills, like architecture, engineering, life, physical and social science, and math. Additionally, according to research by the Computing Technology Industry Association, 69 percent of women who have not pursued careers in information technology attribute say they didn't know these opportunities are available to them.

These statistics point to a gender and diversity gap in the access and preparation of today's students interested in careers in technology and science. Through our administration of Advanced Placement courses in high schools the College Board is working to address these gaps. We designed AP Computer Science Principles to introduce a broad range of students to CS, with no prerequisites, because too few female and underrepresented minority students are taking computer science courses. Launched in 2016, this course has driven the growth of AP computer science in high schools. AP computer science participation increased 184% since 2016, helping more students broaden their career opportunities in STEM. The number of female, rural, and underrepresented minority students taking AP computer science exams has more than doubled in three years. By 2019, nearly 100,000 students took an AP Computer Science Principles Exam, more than doubling participation in just 3 years. Overall participation in AP computer science is up 184% over the last 4 years, and in that time, participation by underrepresented students outpaced overall growth.

We are supportive of state efforts to:

•   Ensure all public-school students have access to rigorous computer science courses;
•   Include goals to increase student participation in rigorous computer science courses for females, rural students, and under-represented students;
•   Allow computer science to be used as part of HS graduation requirements as deemed by the state and based on applied skills and content; and
•   Ensure that there isn't a disconnect between high school graduation and college admission when computer science is used to meet core admission requirements

Adoption of this legislation will help put Oregon on the path to widening career options for Oregon students and ensure that the state is not left behind as occupations requiring computer science training continue to expand in the pacific northwest and throughout the United States.

Sincerely,

 Terry N. Whitney, MPA
Senior Director
Global Policy & External Relations

The College Board
| **M** 202.591.5546
twhitney@collegeboard.org