

# THE 2025 OREGON COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT ACT

## Overview

The 2025 Oregon Computer Science Education Advancement Act will provide the necessary resources to develop and implement equitable, scalable, and sustainable computer science education in Oregon. This legislation will ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn computer science, prepare their educators to teach computer science, establish computer science as a content area, and establish positions at the Oregon Department of education to lead this critical work.

**Computer Science participation rates are dismal for all students, even more so for girls and students of color.** Based on data from the 2021-2022 school year reported to the Oregon Department of Education:

- Only 6% of high school students are enrolled in foundational computer science courses.
- Only 3% of high school girls are enrolled in these courses.
- Only 112 American Indian/Alaska Native students are enrolled.
- Only 83 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students are enrolled.
- Only 211 Black students are enrolled.
- Only 2,000 out of 44,000 Hispanic or Latino/a high school students in Oregon are enrolled. And this is statewide!

6%

of high school students enrolled in a foundational computer science course.

3%

of high school **girls** enrolled in a foundational computer science course.

Access to computer science education varies depending on where students live, with urban schools offering more than 2 times the number of computer science courses than schools located in rural regions of the state. This legislation reinforces Oregon's commitment to providing the best educational opportunities to its students regardless of zip codes, gender, race, and/or ethnicity.

**Computer science is foundational.** Computer science is changing every industry in the state. Today, most careers require computer science knowledge, a requirement that will continue to grow. Computer science concepts nurture creativity and problem-solving skills, preparing students for any future career. Every 21st-century student should have the opportunity to learn how to create technology.

Thirty states have adopted policies requiring all high schools offer computer science, while eight states (and counting) have gone a step further in requiring all students to take computer science as a high school graduation requirement.

**Economic opportunity for all.** According to a recent Brookings study, taking a high school computer science course leads to a large (five-percentage-point!) increase in students' likelihood of earning a bachelor's degree in computer science. High schools offering high-quality computer science courses raise students' likelihood of being employed by 2.6 percentage points and annual earnings by about eight percent. Importantly, these estimates are based on all students, not just those who pursue computer science in their later studies or careers.

According to the State of Oregon Employment Department, computing occupations are among the fastest-growing and best paying occupations in the state. In Oregon, the average annual software developer wage is \$135,279, almost two times the median state wage of \$68.760. Every student deserves the opportunity to access these high-quality education and career pathways.

**10 Year Occupation Growth Rates**

- 30% Software Developers
- 29% Computer and Information Research Scientists
- 38% Data Scientists
- 37% Information Security Analysts

**Funding is crucial to supporting our teachers and students.** To date, 40 states have passed legislation to fund computer science education. Last year alone, 26 states passed funding for computer science education for a total of \$90 million allocated by State Legislatures. Action is needed now to ensure Oregon's students get the same opportunities to access computer science education.



**Support Opportunities for Oregon's Students to Learn Computer Science.**