

LEGISLATION OVERVIEW:
PUBLIC CHAPTER 979

Computer Science







Summary

With the passage of [Chapter 979 of the Public Acts of 2022](#) by unanimous vote of the Tennessee General Assembly, the State Board of Education (SBE), the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE), and all Local Education Agencies (LEA) and public charter schools are required to take specific actions to ensure that all students are fully prepared for the technological jobs of today and in the future. The information provided in this document is designed to provide an overview of what is required of LEAs and how TDOE will support them.



TDOE Supports

To support LEAs in implementing the new computer science requirements, TDOE will provide LEAs with the following:

-  **Grade band-specific** computer science courses, standards, resources and materials, and an online course option for middle and high schools
-  **Targeted professional development modules** that allow educators to effectively deliver computer science curriculum
-  **No cost Computer Science Endorsement Pathway** for educators to pursue an additional endorsement in computer science
-  **A computer science education network** integrated into the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN) regional hubs

LEA Actions

- Provide computer science professional development opportunities to prepare teachers to implement computer science instruction and encourage completion of the Computer Science Endorsement Pathway, offered by TDOE in partnership with TSIN
- Review new course standards, resources, materials, and online options for instructional implementation
- All elementary schools must provide each student with grade-appropriate computer science education based on the computer science academic standards pending approval by SBE embedded into existing instructional programs
- All middle schools must provide students access to computer science instruction for a minimum of at least one grading period of one school year based on the computer science academic standards pending approval by SBE. Every public middle school student is required to take at least one course in CS education that includes instruction for at least one grading period during one school year of their middle school career
- All high schools must provide all students who pursue a traditional high school diploma with at least one course credit of computer science education based on the computer science academic standards pending approval by SBE.

Timeline & Deliverables

- **FALL 2022**
Computer Science Endorsement Pathway rollout (*subject to SBE approval*)
- **DEC. 5-6, 2022**
Computer Science Momentum Expedition
- **SPRING/SUMMER 2023**
Professional Development on new standards, course materials and resources
- **FALL 2023**
Computer science standards implementation (*subject to SBE approval*)
- **FALL 2024**
Middle and High School educators must have a Computer Science Endorsement to teach courses

Elementary school integration requirement

Middle school course requirement

Incoming freshman cohort graduation requirement
- **CLASS OF 2028**
First cohort of high school students with computer science graduation requirement graduating from high school

Additional information about LEA requirements and deadlines can be found [here](#).