Governors' Partnership for K-12 Computer Science
Overview

Computing is a fundamental part of daily life, commerce, and just about every occupation in our modern economy. It is essential that students are exposed to the field of computer science in our K-12 system—as it is foundational in transforming the way students think about the world. Computer science teaches them not only about technology, but also about how to approach problems differently. Computer science puts students on the path toward some of the highest-paying, fastest-growing jobs in America.

We believe that every student who wants to take computer science should have an opportunity to do so regardless of race, gender, or socioeconomic background. The data paint a clear picture of the opportunity gap in K-12 computer science. Only 1 out of 4 schools offer high-quality computer science, and only 1 out of 5 students taking AP Computer Science are female. But our workforce in this area is rapidly growing. According to the Conference Board, there are more than 500,000 open computing jobs nationwide.

As Governors, we recognize the essential roles of state leaders in advancing policy and allocating funding to expand K-12 computer science in our states. We know the importance of working collaboratively and efficiently with other state leaders to identify challenges and share promising practices.

Through the Governors' K-12 Computer Science Partnership, we commit to working toward the following policies that will help meet the goal of increasing access to K-12 computer science in our states:

- Enable all high schools to offer at least one rigorous computer science course;
- Fund professional learning opportunities so teachers can be prepared to teach these courses; and,
- Create a set of high-quality academic K-12 computer science standards to guide local implementation of courses.

The Partnership will also share best practices for computer science education reform, and advocate for federal policies that support the expansion of and access to K-12 computer science, including funding opportunities, flexibility, and policy change.

Code.org will provide the Partnership with resources related to best practices in policy and programs, and will facilitate collaboration among Governors and their staff, in person and virtually.

About Code.org
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.

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FAQs

- Who is leading this effort?
  - Governors Asa Hutchinson (R-Arkansas) and Jay Inslee (D-Washington) serve as the Partnership's Co-Chairs
  - Code.org is providing support and resources

- What are Governors committing to when joining the Partnership?
  - Partnership members are committing to work toward the three policy priorities listed above by engaging with Code.org and other partners to identify the appropriate institutions that have jurisdiction over these matters and creating plans for how to accomplish these goals. This may include creating task forces within the state that will be responsible for guiding the state toward these goals, working on legislative efforts and including these times as a priority in the state budget.

- How will efforts to advance the three priority policies be tracked and reported?
  - The Partnership will raise awareness of state efforts to expand CS education, focused on the 3 priority policy areas, both among Partnership members and to the public via the Partnership website.
  - State plan development, task force creation, and other iterative steps in the policy and funding process will be reported as "working towards" goals in status updates. Legislative efforts, budget proposals, executive orders, and other policy advances will be tracked and shared, as well.

- What are plans for upcoming events?
  - NGA Summer Meeting (July 15, 8-9 am)
    - Code.org-led Computer Science Policy Discussion and hands-on coding event with students
    - Partnership/Code.org work session with staff and interested Governors
  - NGA Education Symposium (September) - TBD
  - NGA Governors' Education Policy Advisors Summit (October) - TBD
  - NGA Winter Meeting (February) - TBD

- What is the time commitment required for the Governor? Staff?
  - Staff conference calls on a monthly/bi-monthly basis to share updates on CS policy and programs in their state.
  - In-person meetings will coincide with the NGA Annual Summer and Winter meetings, as well as other ad-hoc convenings of Governors and staff led by NGA and other organizations.