Frequently Asked Questions
Public Chapter 979
Computer Science Legislation

Legislation Overview

Chapter 979 of the Public Acts of 2022 (Computer Science Legislation) ensures that all public elementary, middle, and high school students have access to computer science (CS) coursework and resources and provides teachers with a no-cost route to earn a computer science additional endorsement and offers teachers and schools incentives to participate in high quality professional development in CS.

Timeline

Deliverable	Date
Computer Science Endorsement Pathway rollout (subject to State Board of Education approval)	Fall 2022
Computer Science Momentum Expedition	Dec. 5-6, 2022
Professional Development of new standards, course materials and resources offered	Spring/Summer 2023
Computer science standards implementation (subject to State Board of Education approval)	Fall 2023
Middle and High School educators must have a Computer Science Endorsement to teach courses.	Fall 2024
Elementary school integration requirement	Fall 2024
Middle school course requirement	Fall 2024
Incoming freshman cohort high school course graduation requirement	Fall 2024
First cohort of high school students with computer science graduation requirement graduating from high school	Class of 2028

Computer Science Courses and Standards

1. **When will the new computer science (CS) standards be available?**
   CS standards will be developed and approved by the State Board of Education to be available for districts to implement starting in the **2023-24** school year, however the legislative requirement for districts to implement the new standards does not begin until the 2024-25 school year.

2. **What materials will be created to support the courses and standards implementation in 2023-24?**
   Subject to State Board of Education approval, the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) will create courses with standards, materials, and resources that support CS implementation at the middle and high school level. The TDOE developed CS courses will also include an online option to ensure all public school students have enrollment access to satisfy graduation requirements. The utilization of the courses provided by TDOE is not required, however it is a free option available for districts.

Division of College, Career & Technical Education
Andrew Johnson Tower • 710 James Robertson Parkway • Nashville, TN 37243
tn.gov/education

1 | July 2022

3. ***Will there be grade banded resources to support instruction?***
CS materials and resources will be developed for grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 instruction.

4. ***Will elementary school students have to take a CS course?***
No, elementary students will not be required to take CS courses. However, no later than the 2024-25 school year, every elementary school student will receive grade-appropriate CS education. CS content should be embedded into everyday instruction.

5. ***Will middle school students have to take a CS course?***
Yes, no later than the start of the 2024-25 school year, 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.

6. ***Will high school students have to take a CS course?***
Yes, beginning at the start of the 2024-25 school year, every public high school will offer access to CS education that will include one high school credit of CS. Starting with the freshman cohort of the 2024-25 school year, each public high school student must take at least one course in CS education as a graduation requirement.

7. ***How will CS courses get approved to count for the graduation requirement?***
Subject to State Board of Education approval, current CS courses that have been approved by the department will be considered for the CS graduation requirement. Additional courses may be approved by the State Board of Education to count for the graduation requirement.

8. ***What if a school wants to offer a CS course that is not on the approved list of CS courses for the graduation requirement?***
High schools interested in offering a CS course that is not on the approved list of courses must submit a special course application for approval by the State Board of Education.

9. ***What if a middle school wants to offer a CS course that is not on the approved list of CS courses?***
Middle schools interested in offering a CS course that is not on the approved list of courses must submit a special course application for approval by the State Board of Education.

Graduation Requirements

10. ***When will incoming freshmen be responsible for the CS graduation requirement?***
Beginning with the incoming 2024-25 freshman cohort, every candidate for a regular high school diploma must receive at least one CS credit in high school.

11. ***What current graduation requirements can be substituted for the computer science credit?***
Subject to State Board of Education approval, CS will potentially count as either a 3rd-year science **or** 4th-year math.

12. ***What are the CS graduation requirements for students who transfer from another state?***
Students who transfer from another state during their senior year shall be exempt.

Division of College, Career & Technical Education
Andrew Johnson Tower • 710 James Robertson Parkway • Nashville, TN 37243
tn.gov/education

2 | July 2022

13. ***What teachers will need to receive an endorsement in CS?***
Any middle or high school teacher who teaches a CS course will be required to have a CS Endorsement starting in the 2024-25 school year.

14. ***Are there multiple options for teachers to receive an endorsement in CS?***
Pre-service teachers will still be required to complete an educator preparatory program and complete CS Praxis (5652). In addition, subject to State Board of Education approval, current licensed teachers will be able to complete the free CS Endorsement Pathway to receive an endorsement in CS.

15. ***What is the CS Endorsement Pathway?***
Subject to State Board of Education approval, the CS Endorsement Pathway provides teachers with a no-cost route to CS endorsement. The endorsement pathway contains six self-paced modules that allow teachers to demonstrate their knowledge and skills of the CS standards by embedding these practices into their current instruction.

16. ***How does this affect teachers that have the CS Employment Standard?***
Teachers who obtained an employment standard will be only required to take three of the six modules in the CS Endorsement Pathway to receive the CS endorsement.

17. ***Will these changes affect teachers who currently hold a CS 173 Endorsement?***
No, teachers who hold a CS 173 Endorsement will continue to be able to teach CS courses.

18. ***When do teachers need to have a CS endorsement?***
Any middle or high school teacher currently teaching a CS course must have a CS endorsement or an employment standard. Teachers will be required to have a CS endorsement to teach the CS courses that will be implemented in the 2024-25 school year.

Professional Development

19. ***What professional development options will be available to teachers?***
Teachers will have ongoing and free CS training available through TDOE, the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network, and the STEM Regional Hubs. Statewide training will be provided for the CS standards, online course options, summer self-paced online CS readiness courses, and other CS professional development opportunities.

20. ***How will Code.org training help teachers interested in teaching Computer Science?***
Code.org training prepares new CS teachers to teach CS across grades K-12. Teachers who complete Code.org training will only be required to complete three of the six modules in the proposed free CS Endorsement Pathway.

21. ***What is the CS Momentum Expedition?***
The [CS Momentum Expedition](#) is a conference that shall serve as a launch pad for the introduction to the implementation of PC979. The mission of this conference will be to spark the creativity of Tennessee teachers by exposing them to numerous ways that CS is integrated into various industries. It is intended to inspire teachers with innovations and demonstrate the interdisciplinary connections that CS has to a plethora of career fields and to their classrooms.

Division of College, Career & Technical Education
Andrew Johnson Tower • 710 James Robertson Parkway • Nashville, TN 37243
tn.gov/education

3 | July 2022