

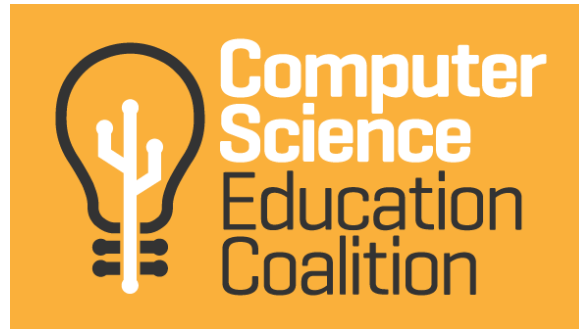
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NEW COALITION PUSHES FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE IN SCHOOLS

Diverse group of businesses and NGOs urges Congress to fund essential investment in America's future workforce

Washington, DC— Today, a diverse group of businesses and NGOs launched the Computer Science Education Coalition, a non-profit organization that will encourage Congress to invest \$250 million in funding for a crucially needed investment in K-12 computer science education. This investment is necessary to help fill critical U.S. jobs and keep America competitive in the global economy for generations to come. At launch, the coalition has 43 members including Amazon, Code.org, Facebook, Google, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, IBM, Microsoft and TechNet.

K-12 education in computer science is essential to keeping the U.S. competitive, economically strong and secure. In fact, today there are over 600,000 computing jobs currently unfilled, while our universities graduate only about 43,000 computer science students each year. Teaching computer science in schools is key to filling that pipeline. Without a robust pipeline of workers trained in this important subject, the U.S. economy will be at a pronounced disadvantage to nations, from China to the UK, which are already taking steps to make computer science available to their students.

"Computer science education is critical to student success and America's national and economic security," said Erin Kanoy Siefring, Chair of the Computer Science Education Coalition. "There are some excellent state-led efforts aimed at filling the computer science job gap. But many more children throughout the country need access to high-quality computer science education because teaching today's students computer skills will ensure continued American economic prosperity and security in the decades ahead."

A recent Google-Gallup poll showed only one in four schools teach any computer science, depriving the vast majority of our nation's students of the opportunity to develop skills that could help them and our economy thrive in the future. Recognizing this, 29 states have acted to ensure computer science credits

are counted towards a student's high school graduation, and state leaders, such as [Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson \(R-AR\)](#) and [Washington Gov. Jay Inslee \(D-WA\)](#), have launched initiatives to better integrate computer science into K-12 classrooms.

"By investing in K-12 computer science Congress has the opportunity to give every student a chance to participate in the fastest-growing, highest-paid jobs in the U.S. and address the diversity problem within our tech sector," said **Hadi Partovi, CEO of Code.org**. "We are excited to join with a broad coalition of leaders in education and technology and thousands of teachers who have made it their mission to ensure all students have the opportunity they deserve."

States and local schools are already leading the charge for more computer science education. Congress has an opportunity, as it did with early childhood, to leverage this momentum with targeted resources necessary to ensure all American students have the opportunity to learn computer science in school. This investment would be consistent with the newly passed Every Student Succeeds Act, which gave state and local school districts more flexibility to fund computer science, but didn't provide a dedicated funding stream for this critical subject. We need a federally focused and funded strategy for computer science to get all students access to computer science education.

"Experts, parents, and state and local leaders have increasingly realized computer science is an essential skill for students in the 21st century," said Katie Whelan, Executive Director of the Computer Science Education Coalition. "This diverse coalition is launching to give children access to rigorous computer science education to make them, and America, globally competitive."

Demonstrating the critical need for legislative action on this issue, late last week several U.S. businesses and organizations sent an open letter to Appropriations Committee Chairs and Ranking Members, Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Representative Harold Rogers (R-KY), and Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY) stating, "At a time when every industry in every state is impacted by advances in computer technology, our schools should give all students the opportunity to understand how this technology works, to learn how to be creators, coders, and makers — not just consumers."

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Coalition members to date include:

Accenture, Access Smart, ACM | Association for Computing Machinery, ACT– The App Association, Amazon, American Association of University Women, Anita Borg Institute, INC, AvePoint INC, BSA | The Software Alliance, CA Technologies, Carter-McGowan Services LLC, Change the Equation, Code.org, College Board, Computer Science Teachers Association, Computing Research Association, Dropbox, Facebook, Focal Technology, Fusion Media Network, Google, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, IBM, International Technical Consortium, Learning Library TV, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), MANA, Microsoft, National Center for Women and Information Technology, National Math and Science Initiative, National Puerto Rican Coalition, NetCom Learning, Professional Options LLC, SAS Institute, Society of Women Engineers, STEM Education Coalition, TechNet, Trusted Learning Network, Unbuttoned Innovation INC, US Licensing Group, US Medical IT, Yahoo

Additional comments by coalition members:

"Funding the promise of our next generation will not only give young people the opportunity to build the products of the future, it will help fill the skills gap necessary to ensure that America remains

competitive in the global economy for decades to come,” said **Erin Egan, Vice President of US Public Policy, Facebook**.

“This coalition will build on a strong movement across the country supporting computer science education,” said **Brad Smith, President of Microsoft**. “We need this movement to ensure that today’s students have the opportunity they deserve to develop the skills that will be foundational for the future across the entire American economy.”

“Computer science should be taught in every school in America, and those classes should count toward core requirements for graduation,” said **Linda Moore, president and CEO of TechNet**. “This new coalition will help our nation take a significant step toward that goal by helping to provide critical funding. TechNet is proud to join this coalition and help our nation prepare young people to survive and thrive in this globally connected world.”

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