

Dear Teacher or Administrator,

According to Gallup, 9 out of 10 parents want schools to teach computer science. Currently, in the state of MN, only 24% of high schools teach computer science. Studies show that computer science students outperform in reading, writing, math, science and are more likely to enroll in college. There are many reasons why all K-12 students should learn computer science: equity and social justice; competencies and literacies; citizenship and civic engagement; technological, social and scientific innovation; economic and workforce development; school reform and improvement; and personal agency, joy, fulfillment (Vogel et al, 2017). Every student should have this opportunity at every grade level.

Can I urge you to help expand computer science education in our schools?

- Explore curriculum and course options to be added into the classrooms in your district.
- Allocate funding for rigorous computer science professional development and support course development.
- If funding is limited, explore low cost or free programs and encourage teachers in your district to participate.
- Prepare teachers with professional development. There currently are no state guidelines for CS education certification but there are plenty of opportunities for teacher to develop these skills.
- Join the CSTA Minnesota Chapter community to connect with other CS teachers in the state.
- Support state policies that support CS education in Minnesota, such as policies that implement a clear certification pathway for computer science teachers.

Will you help put our school on the map for computer science education? Whether we are expanding our existing computer science offering, or starting a brand new program, we should participate in the growing movement to add computer science to the school day for all students.

Sincerely,

Student/Parent/Community Member