

1                   **COMPUTER SCIENCE INITIATIVE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

2                                   2016 GENERAL SESSION

3                                   STATE OF UTAH

4                           **Chief Sponsor: Howard A. Stephenson**

5                                   House Sponsor: Bradley G. Last

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7   **LONG TITLE**

8   **General Description:**

9           This bill enacts provisions regarding computer science instruction in public schools.

10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

11       This bill:

- 12       ▶ defines terms;
- 13       ▶ creates the computer science initiative;
- 14       ▶ requires the STEM Action Center Board and the State Board of Education to
- 15 collaborate to develop and implement the initiative; and
- 16       ▶ requires the STEM Action Center Board to include information on the initiative in
- 17 the board's annual report to the Education Interim Committee.

18 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

19       This bill appropriates:

- 20       ▶ to the State Board of Education - State Office of Education - Initiative Programs, as
- 21 a one-time appropriation:
- 22           • from the Education Fund, \$400,000.

23 **Other Special Clauses:**

24       This bill provides a special effective date.

25 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

26 ENACTS:

27           **63N-12-213**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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29 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

30 Section 1. Section **63N-12-213** is enacted to read:

31 **63N-12-213. Computer science initiative for public schools.**

32 (1) As used in this section:

33 (a) "Computational thinking" means the set of problem-solving skills and techniques  
34 that software engineers use to write programs that underlie computer applications, including  
35 decomposition, pattern recognition, pattern generalization, and algorithm design.

36 (b) "Computer coding" means the process of writing script for a computer program or  
37 mobile device.

38 (c) "Educator" means the same as that term is defined in Section [53A-6-103](#).

39 (d) "Endorsement" means a stipulation, authorized by the State Board of Education and  
40 appended to a license, that specifies the areas of practice to which the license applies.

41 (e) (i) "Institution of higher education" means the same as that term is defined in  
42 Section [53B-3-102](#).

43 (ii) "Institution of higher education" includes the Utah College of Applied Technology.

44 (f) "Employer" means a private employer, public employer, industry association, union,  
45 or the military.

46 (g) "License" means the same as that term is defined in Section [53A-6-103](#).

47 (2) Subject to legislative appropriations, on behalf of the board, the staff of the board  
48 and the staff of the State Board of Education shall collaborate to develop and implement a  
49 computer science initiative for public schools by:

50 (a) creating an online repository that:

51 (i) is available for school districts and charter schools to use as a resource; and

52 (ii) includes high quality computer science instructional resources that are designed to  
53 teach students in all grade levels:

54 (A) computational thinking skills; and

55 (B) computer coding skills;

56 (b) providing for professional development on teaching computer science by:

57 (i) including resources for educators related to teaching computational thinking and

58 computer coding in the STEM education high quality professional development application  
59 described in Section 63N-12-210; and

60 (ii) providing statewide or regional professional development institutes; and  
61 (c) awarding grants to a school district or charter school, on a competitive basis, that  
62 may be used to provide incentives for an educator to earn a computer science endorsement.

63 (3) A school district or charter school may enter into an agreement with one or more of  
64 the following entities to jointly apply for a grant under Subsection (2)(c):

- 65 (a) a school district;
- 66 (b) a charter school;
- 67 (c) an employer;
- 68 (d) an institution of higher education; or
- 69 (e) a non-profit organization.

70 (4) To apply for a grant described in Subsection (2)(c), a school district or charter  
71 school shall submit a plan to the State Board of Education for the use of the grant, including a  
72 statement of purpose that describes the methods the school district or charter school proposes  
73 to use to incentivize an educator to earn a computer science endorsement.

74 (5) The board and the State Board of Education shall encourage schools to  
75 independently pursue computer science and coding initiatives, subject to local school board or  
76 charter school governing board approval, based on the unique needs of the school's students.

77 (6) The board shall include information on the status of the computer science initiative  
78 in the annual report described in Section 63N-12-208.

79 **Section 2. Appropriation.**

80 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, for  
81 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017, the following sums of money  
82 are appropriated from resources not otherwise appropriated, or reduced from amounts  
83 previously appropriated, out of the funds or amounts indicated. These sums of money are in  
84 addition to amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2017.

85 To State Board of Education -- State Office of Education -- Initiative Programs

