Performance Note Report

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Agency: Governor’s Office of Economic Development

Funding For:
New Services or Benefit

Public Benefit:

Purpose: The purpose of the Utah Computer Science Grant Act is to provide equal access to computer science courses to every student in every school in Utah by 2022. This is a new program under the Talent Ready Utah Center. Although computer science courses currently exist through Utah schools, the Utah Computer Science Grant Act will exponentially expand the existing courses across the state but will also create new courses thereby allowing equal access to computer science throughout Utah.

Services: The Utah Computer Science Grant Act is a grant program that will allow all school districts across the state to apply for funding to implement computer science courses in every school. Districts may apply for funding to develop curriculum, provide professional development for teachers, assist teachers with certification, or purchase necessary hardware/software for classrooms. A state-wide computer science strategic plan will be developed under the direction of the Talent Ready Utah board; all grant proposals must align with the state strategic plan in order to receive grant funding.

Expected Outcome: The intent of the Utah Computer Science Grant Act is to provide equal access to computer science courses to every student in every school throughout every district in Utah. Computer science impacts workforce viability in every industry. Building a qualified workforce to fill jobs throughout Utah both today and into the future will have an immense impact on our economy.

Implementations and Resources: The Utah Computer Science Grant Act will be implemented by the Talent Ready Utah Center. The program will work in consultation with the Talent Ready Utah Center Board, the Utah State Board of Education, and support from industry, government and education leaders across the state.

How: The Utah Computer Science Grant Act will be developed and implemented throughout FY 2022. The Talent Ready Utah Center will develop a state strategic plan that all grant proposals and district plans will align with. The Talent Ready Utah board will approve grants and funding will be allocated annually. School districts across the state will develop computer science plans that align with the state strategic plan; success will be measured through equal access to computer science courses in every school across the state by 2022.

Performance Measures
Goal

Title: Percent of Utah School Districts receiving grants from the Utah Computer Science Grant Act program. There are currently 41 Districts in the State.

Description: The Talent Ready Utah board will develop and release a statewide strategic plan by September 2019 providing guidance to School Districts and LEA's to develop their own strategic plans. The TRU Board will then prepare the grant application process and open it for submissions between November 2019 and January 2020. Districts and LEAs will then plan curriculum around the guidance provided and prepare grant applications to implement their desired curriculum. The Talent Ready Utah board and grant committee will review applications and announce awards by March 2020 in order to allow Districts and LEA's to begin teaching in the fall of 2020. There are 41 School Districts in Utah and the number of participating districts will be the metric for evaluation of the program. In FY19 there are none since the grant program is new. FY20 goal is 50% (20 Districts) and FY21 is 75% (31 Districts) with a target of 100% by FY22

Collection Method: The Talent Ready Utah Board will receive applications and document those who are successfully awarded grants. Of those who receive grants they will be required to submit periodic reporting of outcomes and metrics which will be compiled and presented by the Board. At the end of the year those who successfully met the requirement of the grant program will be counted. The goal is 50% in FY20, 75% in FY21 and 100% in FY22

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By rule, performance notes are provided by the governmental entity that will supervise the new agency or administer the new program. Performance notes are not written by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.