

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

As Engrossed: H2/10/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1232

5 By: Representative Tollett
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION
9 PATHWAY ACT OF 2021; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
10

Subtitle

11 TO CREATE THE COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION
12 PATHWAY ACT OF 2021.
13

14
15
16
17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
18

19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 53, Subchapter 1, is amended
20 to add an additional section to read as follows:

21 6-53-108. Computer science course – Instructor requirements.

22 (a)(1) A computer science course offered under this section shall be
23 considered a career and technical education course, an elective, or other
24 computer science course approved by the State Board of Education that may
25 count towards a graduation requirement.

26 (2) A public school shall participate in a computer science
27 course or pathway under:

28 (A) This section;

29 (B) Section 6-13-1032; or

30 (C) Section 6-16-147.

31 (b) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, an education service
32 cooperative shall:

33 (1) Offer a:

34 (A)(i) Career and technical computer science pathway that
35 leads to a technical certificate, an elective, or other computer science
36 course approved by the State Board of Education that may count towards a



1 graduation requirement.

2 (ii) An education service cooperative may partner
3 with a local two-year institution of higher education to provide information
4 to enrolled students regarding computer science educational pathways.

5 (iii)(a) The career and technical computer science
6 pathway that leads to the technical certificate, an elective, or other
7 computer science course approved by the State Board of Education that may
8 count towards a graduation requirement required by subdivision (b)(1)(A)(i)
9 of this section shall be made available to public school students in grades
10 nine through twelve (9-12) who attend public school.

11 (b)(1) The career and technical computer
12 science pathway that leads to the technical certificate, an elective, or
13 other computer science course approved by the State Board of Education that
14 may count towards a graduation requirement required by subdivision
15 (b)(1)(A)(i) of this section may be offered as an endorsed concurrent
16 enrollment course as defined by § 6-16-1202 to a public school student in
17 grades nine through twelve (9-12) who enrolls in the career and technical
18 computer science pathway.

19 (2) An education service cooperative
20 shall make an effort to partner with a local two-year institution of higher
21 education for purposes of offering endorsed concurrent enrollment credit
22 under subdivision (b)(1)(A)(iii)(b)(1) of this section; and

23 (B) Computer science course for public school students in
24 grades seven (7) and eight (8) who attend public school; and

25 (2) Establish an advisory panel comprised of superintendents for
26 consultation.

27 (c) A career and technical education course, an elective, or other
28 computer science course approved by the State Board of Education that may
29 count towards a graduation requirement offered by an education service
30 cooperative under this section shall:

31 (1) Be of high quality;

32 (2) Meet or exceed the curriculum standards and requirements
33 established by the State Board of Education; and

34 (3) Be made available in at least one (1) of the following
35 settings without limitation:

36 (A) A traditional classroom setting;

1 (B) A blended-learning environment;
2 (C) An online-based setting; or
3 (D) Any other technology-based format that is tailored to
4 meet the needs of each participating student.

5 (d) By the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, an education
6 service cooperative shall employ two (2) computer science teachers who hold a
7 teaching license approved by the state board.

8 (e) The state board may adopt rules to administer this section.

9
10 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, Subchapter 10, is
11 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

12 6-13-1032. Computer science course – Instructor requirements.

13 (a) A computer science course offered under this section shall be
14 considered a career and technical education course, an elective, or other
15 computer science course approved by the State Board of Education that may
16 count towards a graduation requirement.

17 (b) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, Virtual Arkansas,
18 through the Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative, shall offer a:

19 (1) Computer science course for public school students in grades
20 seven (7) and eight (8) who are enrolled in Virtual Arkansas, through the
21 Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative; and

22 (2) Career and technical computer science pathway that leads to
23 a technical certificate, an elective, or other computer science course
24 approved by the State Board of Education that may count towards a graduation
25 requirement for students in grades nine through twelve (9-12).

26 (c) A computer science course offered by Virtual Arkansas, through the
27 Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative, under subsection (b) of this section
28 shall:

29 (1) Be of high quality;

30 (2) Meet or exceed the curriculum standards and requirements
31 established by the State Board of Education; and

32 (3) Be made available in at least one (1) of the following
33 settings without limitation:

34 (A) An online-based setting; or

35 (B) Any other technology-based format that is tailored to
36 meet the needs of each participating student.

1 (d) By the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, Virtual Arkansas,
2 through the Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative, shall employ four (4)
3 computer science teachers who hold a teaching license approved by the state
4 board.

5 (e) The state board may adopt rules to administer this section.

6
7 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-16-147, concerning required computer
8 science courses at the high school level, is amended to add an additional
9 subsection to read as follows:

10 (c)(1) A computer science course may be offered to students in grades
11 seven (7) and eight (8).

12 (2)(A) A public school that offers a computer science course
13 under subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall be eligible to receive a grant
14 for start-up equipment from the Division of Career and Technical Education.

15 (B) The division shall determine the qualification
16 requirements and funding amounts for a grant provided under subdivision
17 (c)(2)(A) of this section.

18 (C)(i) A public school may offer a computer science
19 program of study for students in grades nine through twelve (9-12).

20 (ii) A computer science program of study under
21 subdivision (c)(2)(C)(i) of this section shall:

22 (a) Be of high quality;

23 (b) Meet or exceed the curriculum standards
24 and requirements established by the state board; and

25 (c) Be made available in at least one (1) of
26 the following settings without limitation:

27 (1) An online-based setting; or

28 (2) Any other technology-based format
29 that is tailored to meet the needs of each participating student.

30
31 /s/Tollett
32
33
34
35
36