



Indian Hill Board of Education Office

6855 Drake Road, Cincinnati, OH 45243
(P) 513-272-4500 | (F) 513-272-9316

www.indianhillschools.org

March 11, 2025

TO: House Finance Committee

RE: Computer Science Graduation Requirement and Playbook Development Funding

Investing in computer science K-12 will help fill and sustain in-demand jobs, placing Ohio as a leader in critical technology education. It is essential to providing a holistic education for all students.

Computer science (CS) provides benefits in our digital world, understanding concepts like the Internet, algorithms, debugging, and citizenship. The impact of AI on the workforce demands learning computer science.

Beyond serving workforce needs, computer science offers students concrete benefits in problem-solving, and data analysis skills that are not only relevant for every career, but that teach students how to think creatively about problems. Regardless of the career path a student chooses, computer science can help students thrive in a professional life.

Only 61% of Ohio schools offer CS. We must close this gap. Ohio's teachers are the top resource needed to grow educational offerings. Computer science is still thought of as a newer subject, and changing this notion requires state support. Further, the latest data available shows only 3.6% of Ohio students are actually enrolling in computer science in any given year, and access to these courses is not equal among all student groups and schools.

Ohio must continue to build on this momentum in order to close remaining gaps in access and ensure all students can take advantage of the opportunities computer science offers. I agree with the Ohio Computer Science Advocacy Coalition, and urge that the House add the following budget amendments to HB 96:

1. Require All Students Take a Unit of Computer Science To Graduate by 2032

Enact Recommendation #3 from the Report of the State Committee on Computer Science. Until Ohio ensures every student in the state learns computer science, workforce needs in Ohio's most in-demand industries will continue to go unmet, and access to 21st century Technology education across the state will continue to be uneven. The timeline recommended for implementing the requirement provides ample space for planning and preparation by school districts.

Ohio cannot afford to lose ground to surrounding states in the race for an ever-diminishing talent pipeline.

2. Fund a "CS District Playbook" at \$500,000 in FY 2026

Enact Recommendation #8 from the Report of the State Committee on Computer Science by funding the creation of comprehensive resources for school districts on implementing computer science. Select school



Indian Hill Board of Education Office

6855 Drake Road, Cincinnati, OH 45243
(P) 513-272-4500 | (F) 513-272-9316

www.indianhillschools.org

districts representing different populations will receive funding to collaboratively create best practices around progression of courses, staffing and scheduling, curriculum and technical asset management, professional learning and industry-aligned academic pathways.

Funding the creation of a "Playbook" of CS resources for school districts will provide much-needed direct support to districts who are still struggling to offer this newer subject. The Playbook will ultimately help guide the scaling and implementation of strong computer science programs statewide.

3. Extend the Computer Science Teacher Licensure Waiver through 2032

Historically, the Legislature has renewed the waiver allowing a teacher who completes professional development for a particular computer science class to teach that class without a full license. Please renew this waiver, this time through 2032, so schools have additional certainty about this alternative endorsement option.

Ohio needs to remain a leader through the FY 2026-2027 budget cycle. I urge the Committee to support its continuation to ensure Ohio can remain competitive in providing students with critical 21st century skills. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Koennecke'.

Kirk Koennecke
CEO Superintendent
Indian Hill EVSD