

Pandora-Gilboa Local Schools

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Dr. Jeff Wise, Superintendent
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March 11, 2025

TO: House Finance Committee:

RE: Computer Science Graduation Requirement and Playbook Development Funding

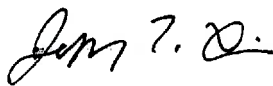
Thank you for considering my written testimony in support of the Ohio Computer Science Advocacy Coalition's budget priorities: 1) adopting a computer science graduation requirement, 2) appropriating \$300k for the CS District Playbook, and 3) adding an extension of the computer science teacher licensure waiver to the budget. As a current public school superintendent, I recognize that in today's digital world, computer science is no longer an elective skill—it is fundamental to success in nearly every field, from healthcare and finance to manufacturing and public service. As technology continues to shape nearly every industry, ensuring that students have foundational computer science knowledge is critical for both their personal success and Ohio's economic future.

A strong computer science education teaches more than just coding—it develops critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills that are valuable across all career paths. Many high-paying and high-demand jobs already require proficiency in technology, and this trend will only accelerate in the coming years. By integrating computer science into our graduation requirements, we can better prepare students for these opportunities and help bridge the skills gap that employers across Ohio are experiencing.

Furthermore, requiring computer science in high schools will expand access to students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to explore this field. Too often, access to computer science education is limited to those in well-funded districts or students who already express an early interest. As a graduate of Vinton County High School in 1998, I can attest that I did not have access to physical technology nor a curriculum supportive of technology. A statewide requirement would ensure that every Ohio student—regardless of background—has the skills needed to thrive in a modern workforce.

Many states have already recognized the importance of computer science and implemented similar requirements. Ohio must take action now to remain competitive and give our students the best possible foundation for success. I urge you to support this initiative and make computer science education a priority in our state's high schools.

Thank you for your time and dedication to strengthening education in Ohio. I appreciate your consideration and hope to see progress on this critical issue.



Jeffrey T. Wise, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Pandora-Gilboa Local School

