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HOUSE BILL 126

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

Debra M. Sariñana

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; REQUIRING EACH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
TO OFFER A COURSE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public School Code is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] COMPUTER SCIENCE--DEFINITIONS--REQUIRED TO
OFFER--REPORTS.--

A. As used in this section:

(1) "computer science" means the study of
computers and algorithmic processes, including their
principles, their hardware and software designs, their
implementation and their impact on society, with content
focused on teaching students how to create new technologies,
not to simply use technology; and

1 (2) "computer science courses" means courses
2 at high school that teach computer science as stand-alone
3 implementations or, for elementary and middle schools, are
4 embedded in other subjects.

5 B. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, each
6 school district shall offer at least one computer science
7 course at a public high school.

8 C. Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, each
9 school district shall offer at least one computer science
10 course at no fewer than one-half of all public high schools.

11 D. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, every
12 public high school shall offer at least one computer science
13 course.

14 E. A computer science course offered by a public
15 school shall:

16 (1) meet or exceed the standards and
17 curriculum requirements established by the department; and

18 (2) be a computer science course offered by a
19 public high school in an in-person setting and be offered as a
20 virtual or distance course option only when a traditional
21 classroom setting is not feasible.

22 F. Beginning June 1, 2022 and by each June 1
23 thereafter, each school district shall submit to the department
24 a report for the current academic year that shall include the
25 following:

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1 (1) the names and course codes of computer
2 science courses offered in each public school, including a
3 course description and which state computer science standards
4 are covered, to the extent such information is available;

5 (2) the number and percentage of students who
6 enrolled in each computer science course, disaggregated by:

7 (a) gender;

8 (b) race and ethnicity;

9 (c) special education status, including
10 students under the federal Individuals with Disabilities
11 Education Act or federal Section 504;

12 (d) English language learner status;

13 (e) eligibility for free and
14 reduced-price meals; and

15 (f) grade level; and

16 (3) the number of computer science instructors
17 at each school, disaggregated by:

18 (a) certification, if applicable;

19 (b) gender;

20 (c) race and ethnicity; and

21 (d) highest academic degree.

22 G. In disaggregating data, unless a category
23 contains between one and five students, or contains an amount
24 that would allow the amount of another category that is five or
25 fewer to be deduced, the number shall be replaced with a

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1 symbol.

2 H. The department shall post publicly on its
3 website on or before June 30 of each year the data received,
4 disaggregated by school and aggregated at the state level, for
5 Paragraphs (1) and (2) of Subsection F of this section. The
6 department shall publicly post aggregate statewide data for
7 Paragraph (3) of Subsection F of this section. The department
8 shall publish a list of computer science course codes and
9 names, including a course description and which courses align
10 to the state computer science standards."