

HOUSE BILL 341

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CREATING A COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM; CREATING THE COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAM FUND; PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHERS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Computer Science Professional Development Grant Program Act".

SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Computer Science Professional Development Grant Program Act:

A. "computer science" means the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including principles, hardware and software designs, implementation and the societal impacts;

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1 B. "computer science course" means a course that
2 teaches computer science either as a standalone course or, for
3 elementary and middle schools, within other subjects; and

4 C. "computer science professional learning" means
5 professional development activities that:

6 (1) clarify the conceptual foundations of
7 computer science;

8 (2) teach research-based practices, including
9 hands-on and inquiry-based learning; and

10 (3) are intended for existing teachers with or
11 without prior exposure to computer science.

12 SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAM FUND--
13 CREATION--DISTRIBUTIONS--ELIGIBLE ENTITIES--ELIGIBLE FUNDING
14 USES--APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS--PRIORITIES FOR AWARDS--
15 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.--

16 A. The "computer science program fund" is created
17 in the state treasury. The fund consists of money appropriated
18 by the legislature. Money in the fund shall not revert to any
19 other fund at the end of a fiscal year. The secretary of
20 public education shall administer the fund, and money in the
21 fund is appropriated to the public education department to
22 administer the provisions of the Computer Science Professional
23 Development Grant Program Act. Money in the fund shall
24 be disbursed on warrants signed by the secretary of finance and
25 administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the secretary of

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1 public education or the secretary's authorized representative.

2 B. Grant amounts will be determined by each
3 entity's grant application. Funds from the computer science
4 program fund shall be distributed to the following entities to
5 develop and implement teacher professional development programs
6 for computer science courses and content:

7 (1) school districts or state-chartered
8 charter schools;

9 (2) institutions of higher education,
10 including community colleges; and

11 (3) regional education cooperatives.

12 C. The public education department may provide
13 grants in accordance with Subsection B of this section for the
14 following purposes:

15 (1) high-quality professional learning
16 programs for kindergarten through grade twelve computer science
17 content, including travel expenses to trainings;

18 (2) credentialing programs for kindergarten
19 through grade twelve computer science teachers, including
20 career and technical education and academic supplemental
21 endorsements;

22 (3) programs for kindergarten through grade
23 twelve computer science professional learning, including
24 mentoring and coaching;

25 (4) resource development to support

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1 implementation, including a computer science resource bank; or

2 (5) student recruitment.

3 D. A school district or state-chartered charter
4 school shall submit an application to the public education
5 department before the department provides a grant from the
6 computer science program fund. The application must address
7 how the entity will use money from the fund to:

8 (1) educate teachers with minimal computer
9 science background;

10 (2) use research or evidence-based practices
11 for high-quality professional development;

12 (3) focus the professional learning on the
13 conceptual foundations of computer science;

14 (4) reach and support historically
15 underrepresented students in computer science;

16 (5) provide teachers with concrete experience
17 with hands-on, inquiry-based practices;

18 (6) accommodate the particular teachers' and
19 students' needs in each district and school; and

20 (7) ensure that participating districts shall
21 begin offering the courses or content within the same or next
22 school year after the teacher receives the computer science
23 professional learning.

24 E. The public education department shall prioritize
25 the following applications:

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1 (1) school districts or state-chartered
2 charter schools that are working with providers of high-quality
3 professional learning for kindergarten through grade twelve
4 computer science;

5 (2) proposals that describe strategies to
6 enroll females and underrepresented minorities, students on
7 free or reduced-fee lunch, students with disabilities and
8 English language learners; or

9 (3) proposals from rural or urban areas with a
10 low concentration of kindergarten through grade twelve computer
11 science offerings, including local education agencies that
12 partner together to form clusters of implementation.

13 F. Each award recipient shall report annually to
14 the public education department the following information:

15 (1) the number of teachers prepared;

16 (2) the number of students who participated in
17 computer science classes;

18 (3) the gender, racial and socioeconomic
19 diversity of those students;

20 (4) the number and diversity of students with
21 passing advanced placement examination scores for high school
22 courses once that data is available;

23 (5) the number of teachers that started
24 implementing computer science in middle and high schools versus
25 the number of prepared teachers that attended professional

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1 learning;

2 (6) agendas from trainings or events; and

3 (7) a summary of which schools were

4 represented at a training or event.

5 SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION.--Five hundred thousand dollars
6 (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
7 computer science program fund for expenditure in fiscal year
8 2020 and subsequent fiscal years for the purposes of that fund.
9 Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of
10 a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.