

# Support Computer Science Education in Virginia!

**Computer science drives job growth and innovation** throughout our economy and society. More than half of projected jobs in STEM fields are in computing occupations; computing occupations dominate “help wanted” ads; and computer science is one of the hottest degrees for new college graduates. Further, computer science is fundamental knowledge all students need for the 21st century. However, computer science education is marginalized throughout K-12 education — denying access to this critical knowledge, particularly among underrepresented groups.



## What can your state do to improve K-12 CS Education?

**1. Allow computer science classes to satisfy existing graduation or higher education requirements** for math or science. Current computer science courses often do not count towards a student’s required coursework—they are treated as electives. And these courses often do not meet entrance requirements for college. Given the academic demands, college-bound students cannot afford to take computer science as an elective. This policy would not require schools to offer computer science or students to study it; it simply allows existing computer science courses to satisfy a core requirement that already exists.

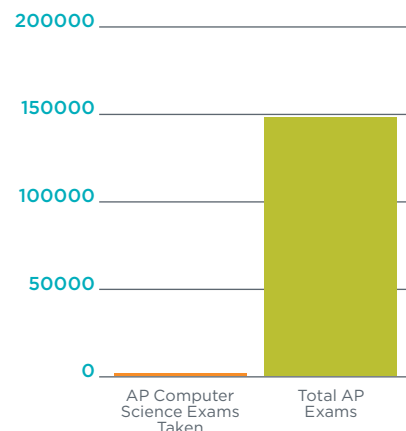
**2. Establish computer science standards.** Most states do not have discrete computer science standards within their existing state standards. States should establish rigorous standards for computer science focused on the creation (not just the use) of software and other computing technologies. The Computer Science Teachers Association has model K-12 CS standards.

**3. Establish or strengthen computer science teachers.**

Most states do not have clear pathways for people to become computer science teachers. Those that have the desire, knowledge and skills to teach young people computer science should have a clear, navigable and rewarding path to K-12 classrooms.

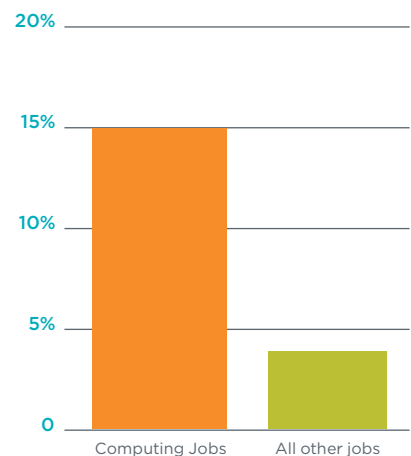
## AP Computer Science in Virginia

Source: College Board



## Demand for jobs in Virginia

Source: Conference Board Help Wanted Online  
Updated Regularly



## What you can do

1. Tell your local school district to allow computer science courses to satisfy a core math or science requirement.
2. Call on your school to expand computer science offerings in K-12.
3. Visit [www.code.org/promote/va](http://www.code.org/promote/va) to learn more about how you can support computer science education in your state.

## Follow us!

Join our efforts to make computer science fundamental knowledge for all kids in the 21st century. Learn more by visiting [code.org](http://code.org), or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

**“Computer Science is a liberal art: it’s something that everyone should be exposed to. everybody should have a mastery of to some extent.”**

—Steve Jobs

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*Advocating for K-12 Computer Science Education*

**Code.org**, a public 501c3 nonprofit, also organizes Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek), which is the awareness-building activity of the computer science education community. Code.org is supported by Microsoft, Google, Amazon, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, and many others who desire to bring CS education to all students. **Computing in the Core** is a non-partisan advocacy coalition of associations, corporations, scientific societies, and other non-profits seeking to elevate the national profile of computer science education in K-12 within the US and work toward ensuring that computer science is one of the core academic subjects in K-12 education.