Arizona

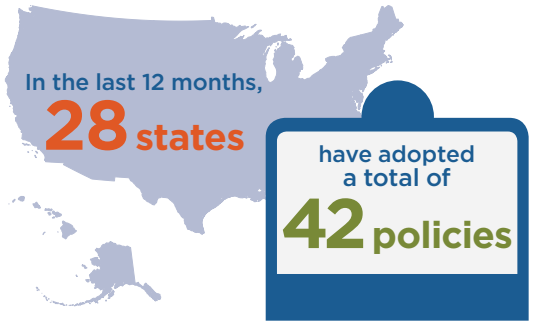
2020 State of Computer Science Education: Illuminating Disparities

Computer science education is more important than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted our society's reliance on computing and its power to help businesses innovate and adapt, yet at the same time has surfaced greater disparities for students studying computer science. Computing is the number one source of all new wages in our economy, and there are currently 400,000 open computing jobs across the United States. Yet the U.S. education system does not provide widespread access to this critical subject.

Although access to computer science is key to addressing the equity issues in society, only 47% of our nation's high schools teach foundational computer science. In addition, students from marginalized racial and ethnic groups, students in Title I schools, and students from rural areas are less likely to attend a school that provides access to this critical subject.

States are working to broaden participation in computer science by passing policies to make computer science a fundamental part of the K–12 education system. In addition to adopting more policies, state education leaders extend and innovate on previously adopted policies: continuing to fund computer science education, supporting teachers and students, and providing leadership and guidance.

States that have adopted more of these nine policies have a larger percentage of high schools teaching computer science. States that have funded K–12 computer science professional learning have higher implementation rates than states that have not provided direct funding.



Pursuing an access agenda to K–12 computer science provides policymakers a rare opportunity to address equity, workforce, and education issues on a bipartisan basis. States should enact or expand on all nine of these education policies in order to provide opportunities for all students regardless of where they live, their race/ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic status.

Nine Policies to Make Computer Science Fundamental

1. Create a state plan for K–12 computer science
2. Define computer science and establish K–12 CS standards
3. Allocate funding for CS teacher professional development
4. Implement clear certification pathways for computer science teachers
5. Create computer science preservice programs at IHEs
6. Establish dedicated state computer science positions
7. Require that all secondary schools offer computer science
8. Allow computer science to satisfy a core graduation requirement
9. Allow CS to satisfy admission requirements at IHEs

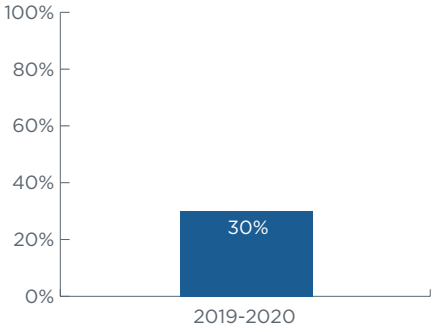
Arizona Computer Science Policy

State Plan No	Arizona has not yet created a state plan for K-12 computer science. A plan that articulates the goals for computer science, strategies for accomplishing the goals, and timelines for carrying out the strategies is important for making computer science a fundamental part of a state's education system.
Standards Yes	Arizona adopted K–12 computer science standards with a focus on equity in 2018. The state intends to close the access gap for underserved populations including students with disabilities, women, and students in underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. Standards within each grade band address concepts of equity, such as bias, accessible technology, and inclusivity.
Funding Yes	SB 1692 (FY 2021), HB 2302 (FY 2020), and HB 2663 (FY 2019) included $1M annually for the computer science professional development program, prioritizing schools that currently do not provide computer science instruction. The program requires a 50% match of state funding with private monies or in-kind donations. In addition, HB 2303 (FY 2019) prioritized rural schools and schools with at least 60% of the students eligible for free and reduced-price lunches. HB 2537 (FY 2018) allocated $200K to support standards and professional development. SB 1568 (FY 2017) allocated $500K, with a focus on Native American students.
Certification Yes	In Arizona, teachers with existing licensure can obtain the PreK–8 or 6–12 endorsement by completing a district-approved program or academic coursework in computer science content and teaching methods. The PreK–12 special subject endorsement requires completing academic coursework in computer science content and methods.
Preservice No	Arizona has not yet established programs at institutions of higher education to offer computer science to preservice teachers. The computer science teacher shortage can be addressed by exposing more preservice teachers to computer science during their required coursework or by creating specific pathways for computer science teachers.
CS Supervisor No	Arizona does not yet have dedicated computer science positions in state or local education agencies. Creating a statewide computer science leadership position within the state education agency can help expand state-level implementation of computer science education initiatives. Similar positions at the local level could support districts' expansion of course offerings and professional development.
All HS Offer No	Arizona does not yet require that all secondary schools offer computer science. The state can support the expansion of computer science courses by adopting policies that require schools to offer a computer science course based on rigorous standards, with appropriate implementation timelines and allowing for remote and/or in-person courses.
Grad Credit District Decision	Arizona passed a permissive and encouraging policy to allow computer science to count as a mathematics credit for graduation, but it is a district decision.
IHE Admission No	Arizona does not yet allow computer science to count as a core admission requirement at institutions of higher education. Admission policies that do not include rigorous computer science courses as meeting a core entrance requirement, such as in mathematics or science, discourage students from taking such courses in secondary education. State leaders can work with institutions of higher education to ensure credit and articulation policies align with secondary school graduation requirements.

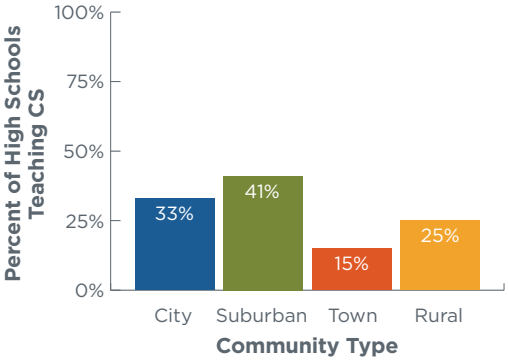
Arizona has a CSTA chapter and Governor Doug Ducey is a member of the Governors' Partnership for K–12 Computer Science.

Computer Science Access and Participation in Arizona

High Schools Teaching CS



Percent of High Schools Teaching CS by Community Type

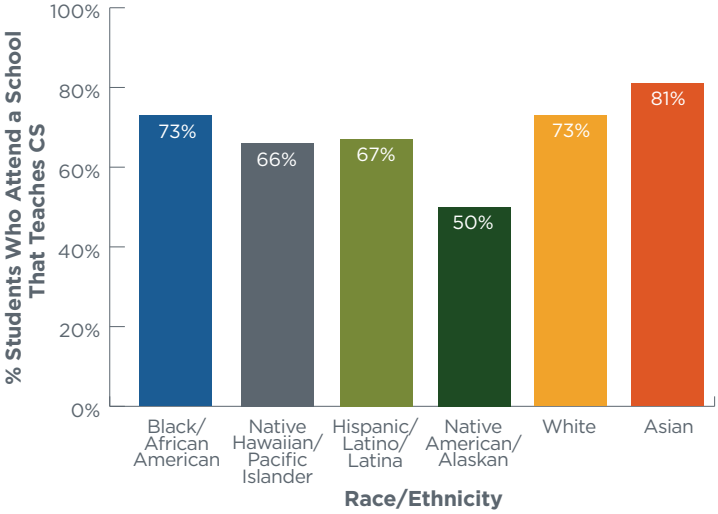


Arizona has averaged **12,934** open computing jobs each month*

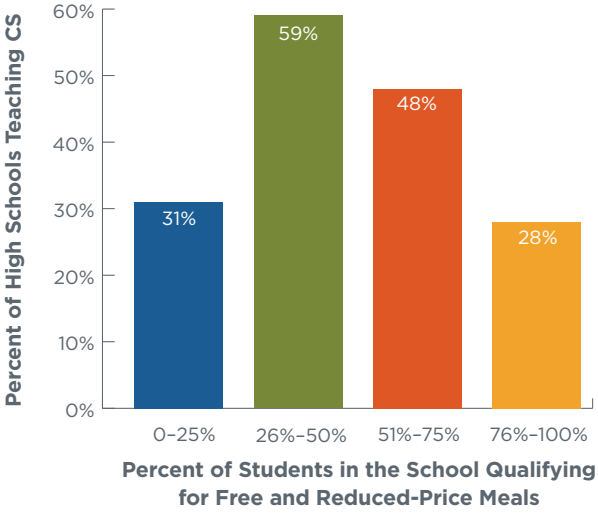
1,014 CS bachelor's degrees in 2018 in Arizona*

*Sources: The Conference Board and the National Center for Education Statistics

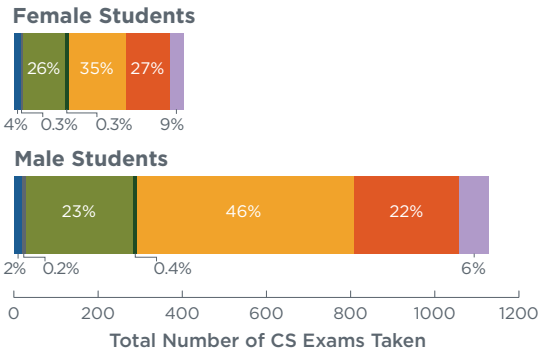
Race/Ethnicity and Access to Computer Science



Income Level and Access to CS



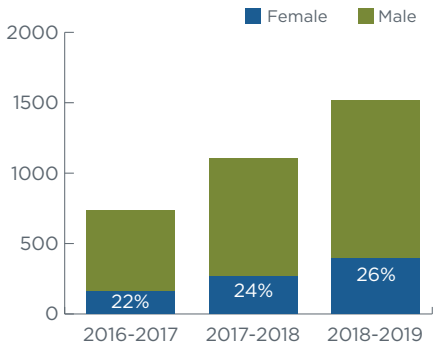
AP CS Participation by Race/Ethnicity and Gender



LEGEND

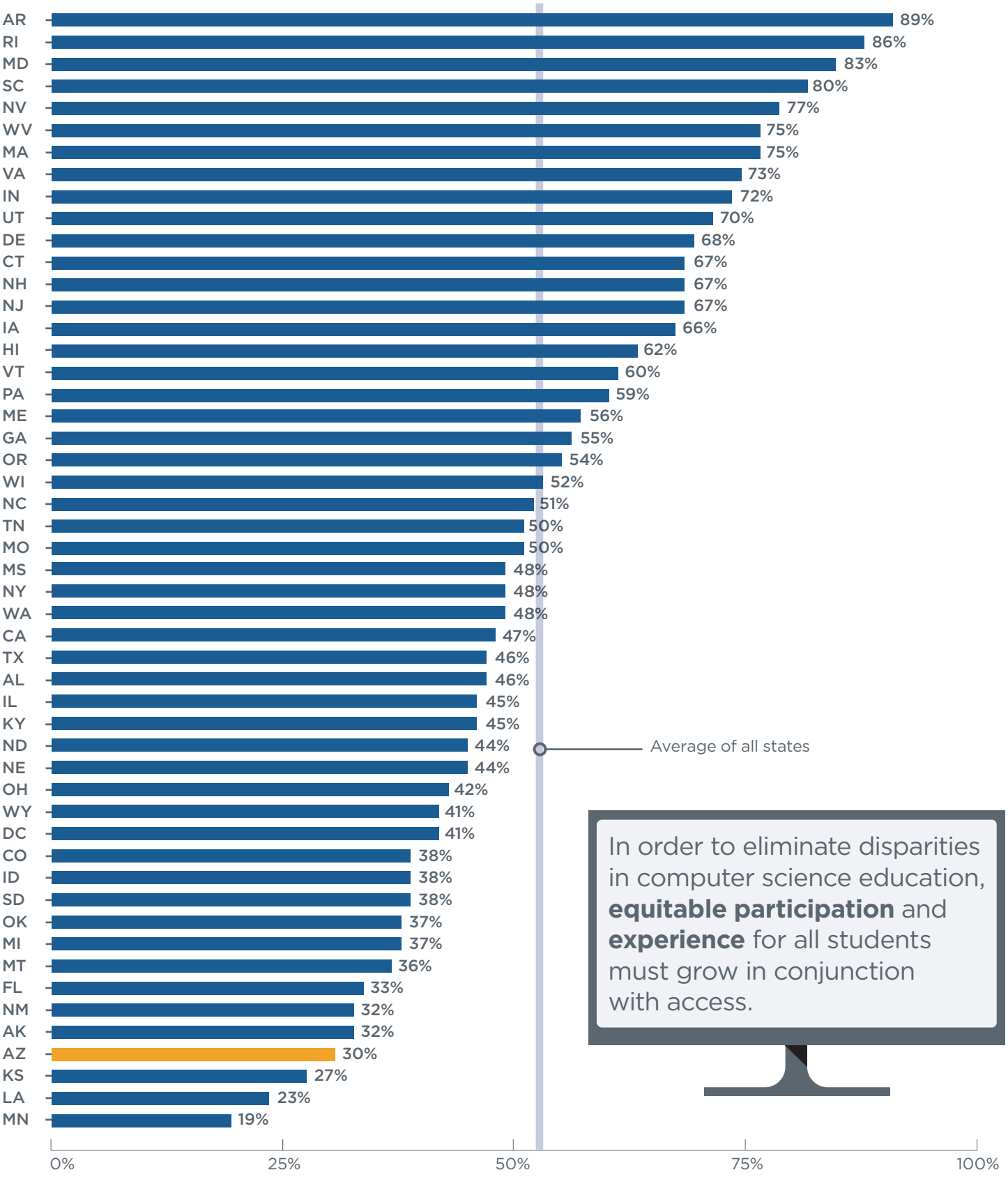
- Black/African American
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Hispanic/Latino/Latina
- Native American/Alaskan
- White
- Asian
- 2+ Races/Other

AP CS Student Participation



Native American/Alaskan students are 2.5 times less likely than their white and Asian peers to attend a school that offers AP CS, and 7 times less likely to take an AP CS exam when they attend a school that offers it. Black/African American students are 3 times less likely than their white and Asian peers to take an AP CS exam when they attend a school that offers it.

Percent of High Schools Teaching Computer Science by State



In order to eliminate disparities in computer science education, **equitable participation** and **experience** for all students must grow in conjunction with access.

For more details on policy, access, and participation, see the full 2020 State of Computer Science Education report at advocacy.code.org/stateofcs

Advocacy Coalition

ECEP Expanding Computing Education Pathways

CSTA