

2021 State of Computer Science Education

Nationally, just 51% of high schools offer computer science, up from 35% in 2018. This represents tremendous progress by teachers, school leaders, policymakers, and other advocates. But given the significance of computing in today's society, it is not enough for half of schools to lack even a single course. New data reveals disparities in who has access to and who participates in computer science education.

Over the past year, U.S. students, teachers, and families faced unprecedented challenges, making it more important than ever that computer science becomes a sustained part of the education system. Computer science supports the development of problem solving, creativity, metacognition, spatial skills, reasoning skills, and improvements in reading, writing, mathematics, and science test scores. Increasingly, computer science is recognized as a core literacy for students.

Students who attend rural schools, urban schools, or schools with higher percentages of economically disadvantaged students are less likely to have access to computer science. States are working to broaden access and participation in computer science with policies to make computer science a fundamental part of the K-12 education system.

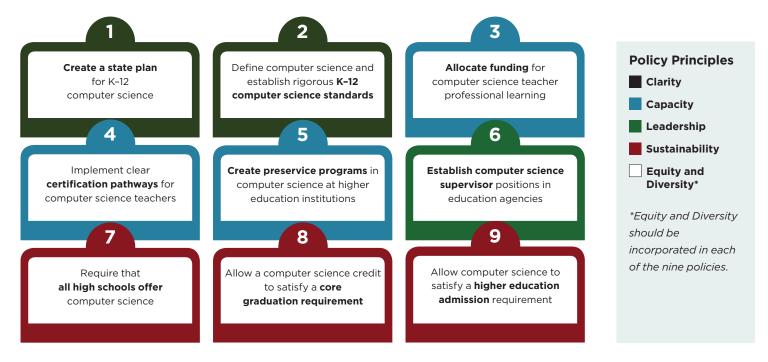
States that adopt **more of the nine policies** shown below have a greater percentage of high schools offering computer science.

Female students make up 49% of the elementary students enrolled in computer science, 44% of the middle school students, and only 31% of high school students.

Although 78% of U.S. high school students attend a school that offers foundational computer science, **only 4.7% of students are enrolled in a course**.

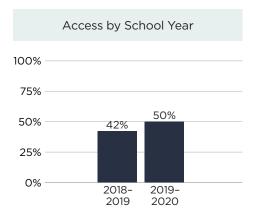
Pursuing policies that expand access to K-12 computer science provides policymakers a rare opportunity to address equity, workforce, and education issues on a bipartisan basis.

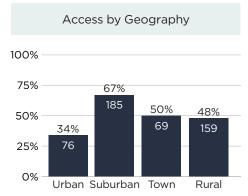
Nine Policies to Make Computer Science Fundamental

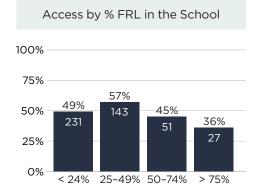




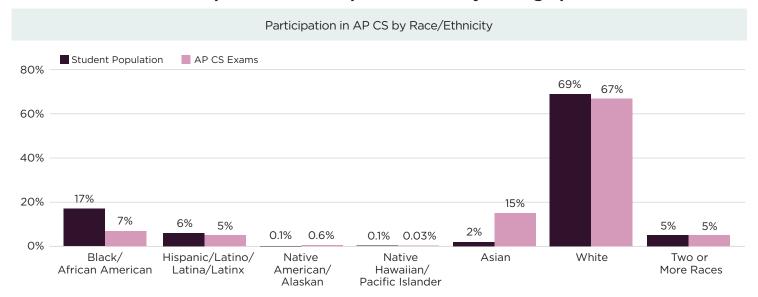
Percentage of Public High Schools Offering Foundational Computer Science

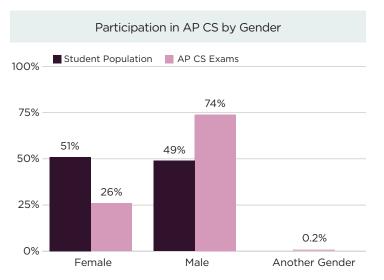






Participation in AP Computer Science by Demographic





65% of OH high school students attend a school that offers computer science. Of 3,548 total AP CS exams taken in Ohio last year, 26% were female and 0.2% identified as another gender. Black/African American students are 1.7 times less likely than their white and Asian peers to attend a school that offers AP CS. Only one Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander student took an AP CS exam.

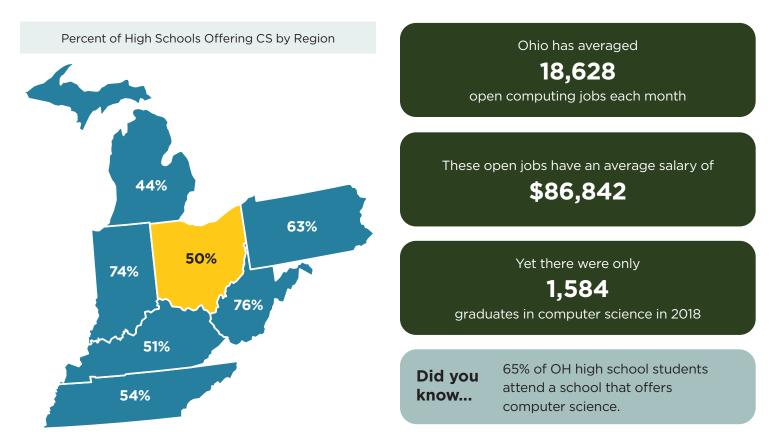
Access data provided primarily by the Department of Education and school catalogs, based on 971 schools with high school grades. Numbers inside the bars represent the total number of public high schools offering computer science in that category. Course enrollment data for all foundational computer science courses is not available from Ohio. State data on students identifying as another gender is also unavailable.



State policy should provide clarity, school and state capacity, leadership, sustainability of computer science initiatives, and promote access to and equity within rigorous and engaging computer science courses.

Regional Comparison of Computer Science Education Policy Adoption

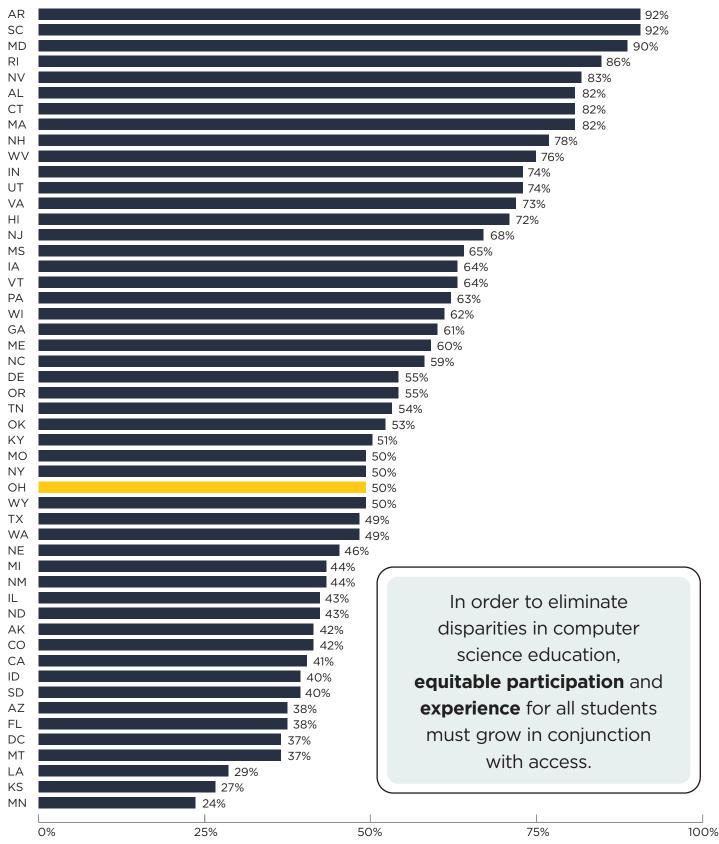
POLICY	ОН	IN	KY	MI	PA	WV	TN
State CS Plan	In progress	✓				✓	✓
K-12 CS Standards	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Funding for Teacher PD		\$12.6M	\$800K		\$56M	\$2.4M	\$518K
Teacher Certification	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Preservice Programs	✓	✓			✓		✓
State CS Supervisor	✓	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
All High Schools Offer		✓				✓	
Graduation Credit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Higher Ed Admission	✓	✓	✓				



Sources: The percent of high schools offering CS comes from the CS Access Report, open computing jobs come from the Conference Board, salaries come from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and graduates come from the National Center for Education Statistics.



High Schools Offering Computer Science by State



For more details on policy, access, and participation, see the full 2021 State of Computer Science Education report at advocacy.code.org/stateofcs





