



# Nebraska

## 2020 State of Computer Science Education: Illuminating Disparities

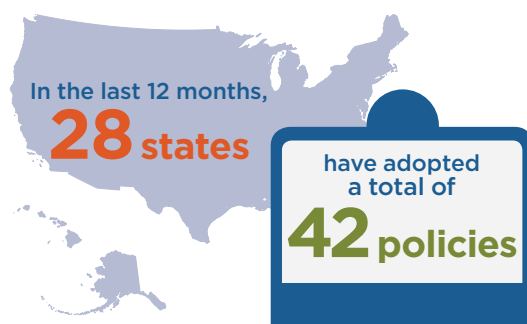
Computer science education is more important than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted our society's reliance on computing and its power to help businesses innovate and adapt, yet at the same time has surfaced greater disparities for students studying computer science. Computing is the number 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

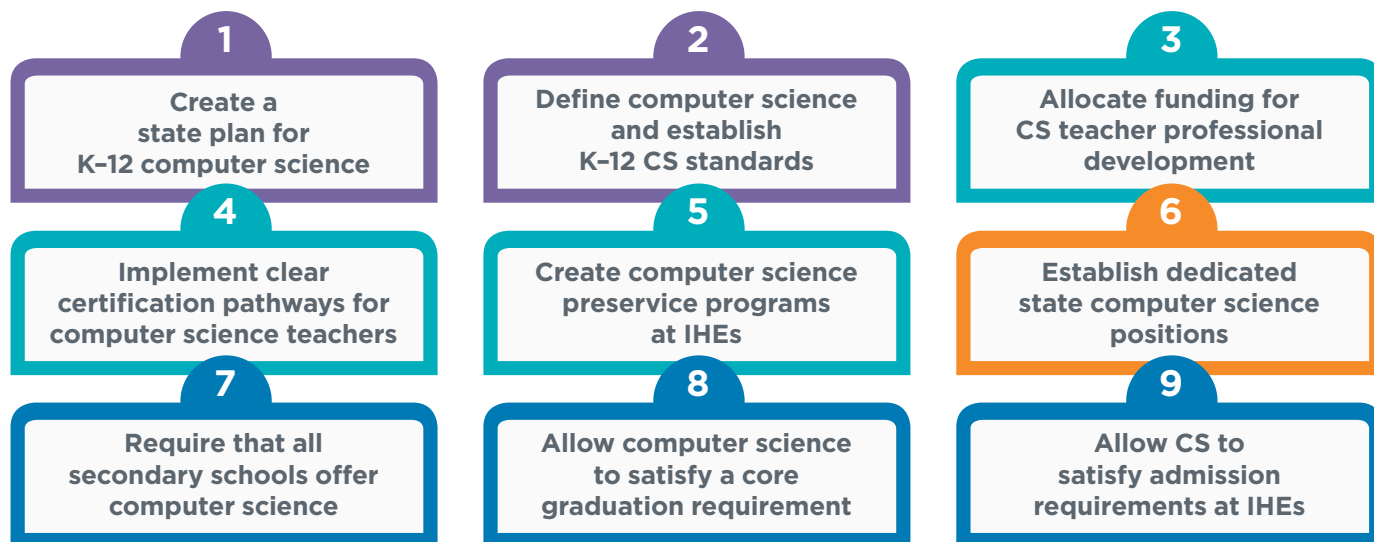
computer science education, supporting teachers and students, and providing leadership and guidance.

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. All nine policies can promote access to and equity within rigorous and engaging computer science courses when stakeholders make equity an explicit focus on policy development and implementation monitoring.

### Nine Policies to Make Computer Science Fundamental





# Nebraska Computer Science Policy

## State Plan

In Progress

The Nebraska Department of Education is in the process of developing 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

No

Nebraska does not yet have rigorous computer science standards publicly available across K-12. Computer science has often been confused with broader technology education in schools. The state could strengthen its computer science programs by publicly adopting discrete standards for computer science focused on both the creation and use of software and computing technologies at all levels of K-12 education. These standards can be guided by the concepts, practices, and recommendations in the K-12 Computer Science Framework, found at <http://www.k12cs.org>.

## Funding

No

Nebraska does not yet provide dedicated funding for rigorous computer science professional development and course support. Although funds may be available via broader programs, the state can strengthen its computer science programs by creating specific opportunities to bring computer science to school districts, such as matching fund programs.

## Certification

No

Nebraska does not yet have clear certification pathways for computer science teachers. The expansion of K-12 computer science education is hampered by the lack of qualified computer science teachers. We can grow their ranks by creating clear, navigable, and rewarding professional paths for computer science teachers.

## Preservice

No

Nebraska 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

Nebraska 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

Nebraska 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

Nebraska passed a permissive and encouraging policy to allow computer science to count towards CTE in the 80 core curriculum hours required for graduation, but it is a district decision.

## IHE Admission

No

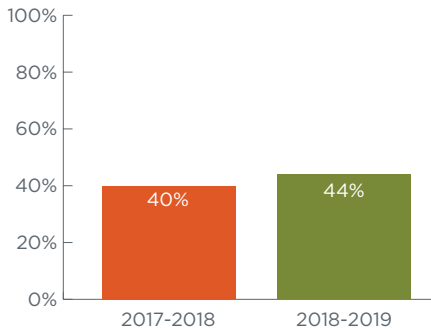
Nebraska does not yet allow computer science to count as a core admission requirement at institutions of higher education. Admission policies that do not include rigorous computer science courses as meeting a core entrance requirement, such as in mathematics or science, discourage students from taking 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.

Nebraska has CSTA chapters.

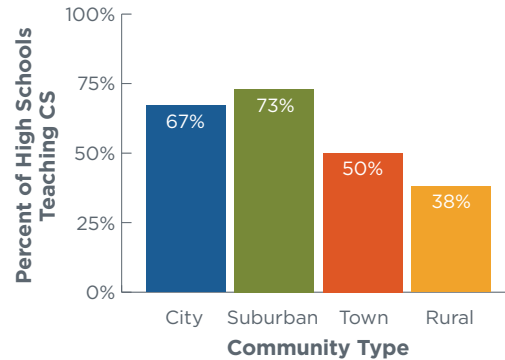


# Computer Science Access and Participation in Nebraska

## High Schools Teaching CS



## Percent of High Schools Teaching CS by Community Type

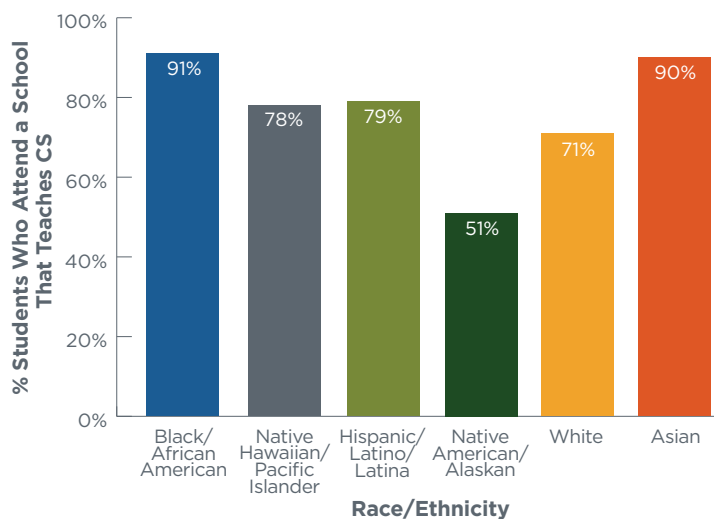


Nebraska has averaged  
**3,030**  
open computing jobs  
each month\*

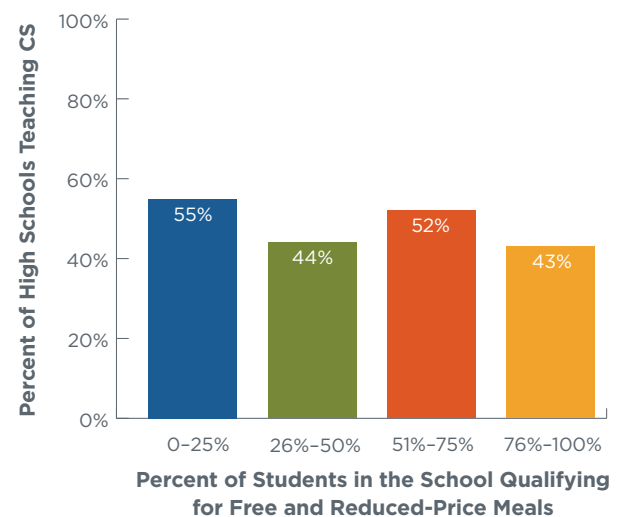
**570**  
CS bachelor's degrees  
in 2018 in Nebraska\*

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

## Race/Ethnicity and Access to Computer Science

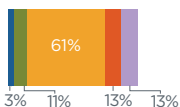


## Income Level and Access to CS

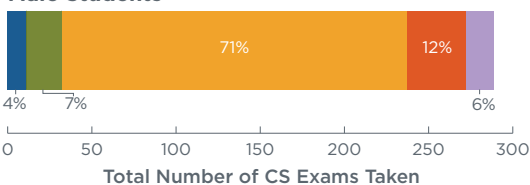


## AP CS Participation by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

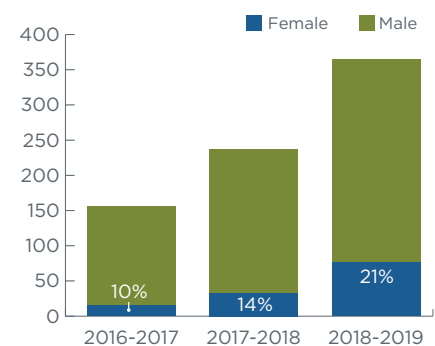
### Female Students



### Male Students



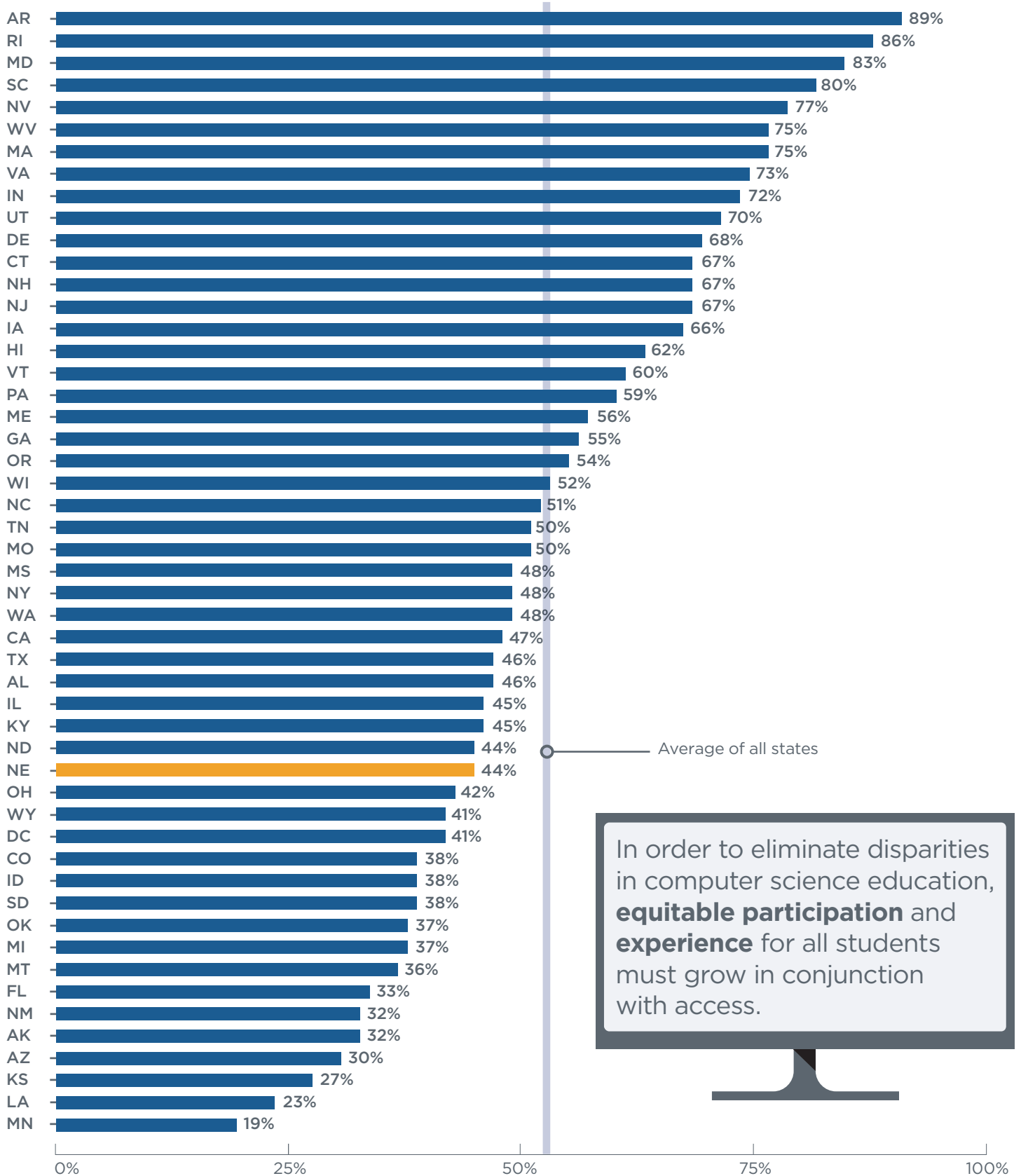
## AP CS Student Participation



Native American/Alaskan students are 2 times less likely than their white and Asian peers to attend a school that offers AP CS. Hispanic/Latino/Latina students are 3 times less likely and Black/African American students are 2.7 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](https://advocacy.code.org/stateofcs)

