

# HB1631



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB1631

Introduced 2/1/2023, by Rep. Daniel Didech

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-23.15

Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. Provides that the State Board of Education, subject to appropriation, shall establish a program that awards grants to eligible school districts to support computer science education professional development. Provides for how grant funds may be used. Provides that, subject to appropriation, the State Board of Education shall annually disseminate a request for applications to receive a grant under this program and funds shall be distributed annually. Sets forth criteria for applying for and awarding grants. Provides for rulemaking. Effective immediately.

LRB103 25290 RJT 51635 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 27-23.15 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-23.15)

7 Sec. 27-23.15. Computer science.

8 (a) In this Section:7

9 "Computer ~~computer~~ science" means the study of computers,  
10 ~~and~~ algorithms, and the development of new technologies,  
11 including their principles, their hardware and software  
12 designs, their implementation, and their impact on society.  
13 "Computer science" does not include the study of everyday uses  
14 of computers and computer applications, such as keyboarding or  
15 accessing the Internet.

16 "Computer science education professional development"  
17 means computer science training programs for licensed staff in  
18 schools, including, but not limited to, programs that assist  
19 in implementing new curriculum programs, provide data focused  
20 or academic assessment data training to help staff identify a  
21 student's weaknesses and strengths, target interventions,  
22 improve instruction, encompass instructional strategies for  
23 English learner, gifted, or at-risk students, address

1 inclusivity, cultural sensitivity, or implicit bias, or  
2 otherwise provide professional support for licensed staff.

3 (b) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the school  
4 board of a school district that maintains any of grades 9  
5 through 12 shall provide an opportunity for every high school  
6 student to take at least one computer science course aligned  
7 to rigorous learning standards of the State Board of  
8 Education.

9 (c) The State Board of Education, subject to  
10 appropriation, shall establish a program that awards grants to  
11 eligible school districts to support computer science  
12 education professional development. Grant funds may be used to  
13 provide computer science education professional development by  
14 any entity approved to provide professional development  
15 activities pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 21B-45 of  
16 this Code.

17 Subject to appropriation, the State Board of Education  
18 shall annually disseminate a request for applications to  
19 receive a grant under this program, and funds shall be  
20 distributed annually. The criteria to be considered by the  
21 State Board of Education in awarding grants shall be whether a  
22 school district that maintains any of grades 9 through 12 has a  
23 demonstrated shortage of teachers to provide every high school  
24 student an opportunity to take at least one course aligned to  
25 the State Board of Education's learning standards for computer  
26 science.

1       In distributing grant funds under this subsection (c), the  
2 following applications shall have priority:

3           (1) applications from school districts designated as  
4 Tier 1 or Tier 2 under Section 18-8.15;

5           (2) applications from school districts that are  
6 working in partnership with providers of high-quality  
7 professional learning for K-12 computer science;

8           (3) applications from school districts that describe  
9 strategies to enroll female students, students from  
10 marginalized racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in  
11 computer science, students eligible for free or  
12 reduced-price meals, students with disabilities, and  
13 English learners; and

14           (4) applications from rural or urban school districts  
15 with a low penetration of K-12 computer science offerings,  
16 including school districts that partner together to form  
17 cooperatives for implementation.

18 (d) Grants awarded under subsection (c) may be used for:

19           (1) professional learning supportive of the State  
20 Board of Education's learning standards for computer  
21 science;

22           (2) credentialing costs and fees associated with K-12  
23 computer science teacher endorsements, including career  
24 and technical education and academic supplemental  
25 endorsements;

26           (3) supporting K-12 computer science classroom

1 teaching and program administration, including mentoring  
2 and coaching;

3 (4) creating resources to support computer science  
4 education implementation;

5 (5) student recruitment, including promotional  
6 materials; and

7 (6) planning and coordination efforts for cooperative  
8 programs that are a partnership among school districts.

9 (e) To apply for a grant under subsection (c), a school  
10 district shall submit an application addressing, at a minimum,  
11 how the district will:

12 (1) reach new and existing teachers with little to no  
13 computer science background;

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

16 (3) focus the professional learning on the conceptual  
17 foundations of computer science;

18 (4) reach and support marginalized racial and ethnic  
19 groups underrepresented in computer science;

20 (5) provide teachers who have concrete experience with  
21 hands-on, inquiry-based practices;

22 (6) accommodate the particular teacher and student  
23 needs in the district and each school; and

24 (7) ensure that the district begins offering the  
25 course or content within the same or next school year  
26 after the teacher receives the professional learning.

1       A school district's application must provide for an  
2 allocation of funds for the purpose of evaluating the school  
3 district's computer science programming, which must include,  
4 at a minimum:

5               (A) indicators for equity related to access and  
6 successful completion;

7               (B) postsecondary college and career placement;  
8 and

9               (C) program quality.

10       (f) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules  
11 necessary for implementation of the grant program established  
12 under subsection (c).

13       (Source: P.A. 101-654, eff. 3-8-21; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22.)

14       Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
15 becoming law.