

SENATE, No. 990

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Turner, Corrado, Cunningham and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Requires school district to report to DOE on various aspects of computer science courses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/11/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning computer science in public schools and
2 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Individuals with computing skills are among the most
9 sought-after employees in the United States job market;

10 b. New Jersey currently has more than 15,000 open computing
11 jobs across all industries;

12 c. Women and minorities remain underrepresented in computer
13 science fields;

14 d. Leaving women, the sole or primary wage earner in 40
15 percent of American families, out of this vital workforce will have
16 drastic effects on New Jersey's economy and competitive
17 advantage;

18 e. New Jersey is committed to increasing the participation of
19 females and other underrepresented students in computer science
20 fields; and

21 f. Tracking data specific to the demographic make-up,
22 availability, and content of computer science courses in New Jersey
23 schools will provide insight needed to address gaps in populations
24 that are underrepresented in computer science fields.

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26 2. a. On or before April 30 of each school year, a school
27 district shall issue a report to the Commissioner of Education on the
28 computer science courses offered in the school district during the
29 preceding school year.

30 b. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

31 (1) the total number of computer science courses offered in each
32 school in the district, including any advanced placement computer
33 science courses;

34 (2) the subject matter covered in each computer science course
35 offered;

36 (3) the total number of computer science teachers at each school
37 in the district, including the number of computer science teachers
38 disaggregated by gender, terminal degree, and instructional
39 certificate endorsement; and

40 (4) the total number and percentage of students enrolled in
41 computer science courses at each school in the district, including
42 the number and percentage of students enrolled in computer science
43 courses disaggregated by gender, race and ethnicity, special
44 education status, English language learner status, eligibility for the
45 free and reduced price lunch program, and grade level.

46 c. The commissioner shall compile the information reported by

1 school districts pursuant to this section and post the information on
2 the department's website no later than October 1 of each school
3 year.

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5 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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10 Tracking data specific to the demographic make-up, availability,
11 and content of computer science courses in New Jersey schools will
12 provide insight needed to address gaps in populations that are
13 underrepresented in computer science fields. This information will
14 help New Jersey in its commitment to increasing the participation
15 of female and other underrepresented students in computer science
16 fields.

17 This bill will require each school district to issue a report to the
18 Commissioner of Education by April 30 of each school year on the
19 computer science courses offered in the district. The report will
20 include, but not be limited to, (1) the total number of computer
21 science courses offered in each school in the district, including any
22 advanced placement computer science courses; (2) the subject
23 matter covered in each computer science course offered; (3) the
24 total number of computer science teachers in each school in the
25 district disaggregated by gender, terminal degree, and instructional
26 certificate endorsement; and (4) the total number and percentage of
27 students enrolled in computer science courses in each school in the
28 district disaggregated by gender, race and ethnicity, special
29 education status, English language learner status, eligibility for the
30 free and reduced price lunch program, and grade level.

31 This bill also requires the commissioner to compile the
32 information reported by the school districts and post the
33 information on the department's website no later than October 1 of
34 each school year.