

# CPS Computer Science Graduation Requirement Fact Sheet



“CPS is on the leading edge of technology in the classroom and the Computer Science graduation requirement helps put more students on the path to success in the 21st century job market. Computer Science for All does exactly what it says: incorporates technology and coding into every student’s curriculum so every child can have the access and tools to build the skills for the jobs of tomorrow.” - CPS CEO Forrest Claypool

## **CPS is a Computer Science Leader:**

The Computer Science graduation requirement will further support the Computer Science for All (CS4All) initiative. Launched in December 2013 by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and CPS, CS4All expands K-12 Computer Science, ensuring equity and access for all students.

CPS was the first district in the country to launch the CS4All initiative. It’s now being embraced and implemented in several large urban districts, with the White House launching its own CS4All national initiative earlier this month.

## **The Importance of a Computer Science Education:**

Historically, only well-resourced school districts with students of a higher socioeconomic status offered computer science, contributing to national racial and gender disparities in this field.

Experts estimate that the demand for computing skills will outstrip supply, creating a gap of 1 million job openings by 2024. Currently, there are nearly 600,000 job openings in computing while universities produced fewer than 40,000 computer science graduates last year.

Recognizing computer science as a core skill will help increase student success and prepare students to compete in the global community. By making computer science a core requirement for all students, CPS will continue to stay ahead of the curve, and will be the first district to create a computer science graduation requirement separate from other core requirements such as math or science.

## **About the Computer Science Graduation Requirement:**

Computer science as a graduation requirement will expose all CPS students to understanding the tools of the future, and increase the number of graduates who are grounded in STEM skills and interested in pursuing STEM careers.

To date, 107 CPS schools have already implemented computer science courses, 41 of which are high schools and are prepared to implement the graduation

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requirement. CPS' goal is to add 50-60 schools per year, with special focus on high schools to prepare for the graduation requirement.

Students will complete this one-credit requirement as half of the two-credit Career Education requirement. The new graduation requirement will apply to SY16-17's incoming freshmen.

CPS is working with partners like Code.org and the CME Group to provide computer science curriculum, teacher professional development and stipends and training for new and existing teachers.

Approximately 250 CPS teachers and administrators are already computer science certified, providing a foundation to support schools in implementing the graduation requirement.

CPS' Office of College and Career Success will support teachers through professional development, coaching, and program administration and provide technical assistance to schools to ensure they are able to implement the computer science graduation requirement successfully.

Implementing the CS graduation requirement will be cost neutral to schools. CPS is technologically supporting schools to ensure they become PARCC-ready, this will also provide the equipment needed for computer science coursework.

Additional teachers are not required to implement the computer science graduation requirement. CPS is developing a computer science education plan that will provide detailed guidance to schools on how to implement this requirement, the curricular standards, recommended teacher preparation, and authorized exceptions.