

Substitute for HOUSE BILL No. 2466

By Committee on Education

2-17

1 AN ACT concerning education; enacting the promoting advancement in
2 computing knowledge act; relating to computer science courses of
3 instruction in high schools; establishing the computer science educator
4 program; authorizing scholarship awards to licensed and preservice
5 teachers taking computer science courses.

6
7 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

8 Section 1. The provisions of sections 1 through 4, and amendments
9 thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the promoting advancement in
10 computing knowledge act.

11 Sec. 2. As used in the promoting advancement in computing
12 knowledge act:

13 (a) "Computer science" means the study of computers and
14 algorithmic processes, including principles, hardware and software
15 designs, implementation and impact on society.

16 (b) "Computer science course" means any standalone computer
17 science course of instruction that teaches the content in the Kansas model
18 standards for computer science.

19 (c) "High-quality professional learning" means professional
20 development activities that:

21 (1) Clarify the conceptual foundations of computer science;
22 (2) teach research-based practices, including hands-on and inquiry-
23 based learning; and

24 (3) are intended for existing teachers with or without prior computer
25 science experience.

26 (d) "High-quality professional learning providers" means any school
27 district, school district interlocal cooperative, school district cooperative,
28 institution of higher education, nonprofit organization or private entity
29 that:

30 (1) Has successfully designed, implemented and scaled high-quality
31 professional learning for teachers; and

32 (2) is approved or recommended by the state board of education as
33 providing high-quality professional learning.

34 Sec. 3. (a) Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, each high school
35 operated by a school district shall offer at least one computer science
36 course or a school district shall submit a plan to the state board of

1 education describing how such district intends to offer such course and the
2 school year such course will first be offered.

3 (b) A computer science course offered pursuant to this section shall:

4 (1) Be high quality;

5 (2) meet or exceed the Kansas model standards for computer science
6 established by the state board of education; and

7 (3) be made available in a traditional classroom setting, blended
8 learning environment, online-based or other technology-based format that
9 is tailored to meet the needs of each high school and each participating
10 student.

11 (c) (1) On or before January 15, 2023, and each January 15 thereafter,
12 the state board shall prepare and submit a report to the governor and the
13 legislature on the progress made pursuant to this act. Such report shall
14 include for the immediately preceding school year:

15 (A) The number of high schools that offered at least one computer
16 science course;

17 (B) the number of high-quality professional learning providers that
18 received grants pursuant to section 4, and amendments thereto;

19 (C) the number of teachers prepared by high-quality professional
20 learning providers;

21 (D) the number of teachers teaching computer science courses as
22 compared to the number of teachers prepared by high-quality professional
23 learning providers; and

24 (E) the number of students reached, including the number and
25 percentage of such students disaggregated by gender, race, ethnicity and
26 socioeconomic status, by high-quality professional learning providers.

27 (2) The provisions of this subsection shall expire on July 1, 2025.

28 Sec. 4. (a) Subject to appropriations therefor, the state board of
29 education may award grants to high-quality professional learning
30 providers to develop and implement teacher professional development
31 programs for the computer science courses required to be taught pursuant
32 to section 3, and amendments thereto.

33 (b) Grants awarded pursuant to this section may be used for the
34 following purposes:

35 (1) Providing high-quality professional learning;

36 (2) credentialing for computer science teachers, including, but not
37 limited to, reimbursement to teachers or providers for professional
38 learning, exam fees or college coursework;

39 (3) supporting computer science professional learning, including
40 mentoring and coaching;

41 (4) creating resources to support implementation of this act;

42 (5) student recruitment; and

43 (6) the development of teacher preparation programs.

1 (c) As a condition of receiving a grant pursuant to this section, a
2 high-quality professional learning provider shall submit an application to
3 the state department of education on a form and in a manner determined by
4 the state department of education. The application shall, at a minimum,
5 address how the provider will:

6 (1) Recruit new and existing teachers with little to no computer
7 science background;

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

10 (3) focus the professional learning on the conceptual foundations of
11 computer science;

12 (4) reach and support marginalized racial and ethnic groups
13 underrepresented in computer science;

14 (5) provide teachers with concrete experience with hands-on, inquiry-
15 based practices;

16 (6) accommodate both teacher and student needs; and

17 (7) ensure that participating districts shall begin offering a computer
18 science course within the same or next school year after the teacher
19 receives the professional learning.

20 (d) The state board of education shall prioritize the following
21 applications:

22 (1) School districts that work in partnership with providers of high-
23 quality professional learning;

24 (2) proposals that describe strategies to enroll female students,
25 students from marginalized racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in
26 computer science, students eligible for free and reduced-price meals,
27 students with disabilities and English language learners; and

28 (3) proposals from rural or urban areas that experience difficulties
29 providing computer science offerings.

30 (e) Each high-quality professional learning provider that receives a
31 grant pursuant to this section shall annually report to the state board of
32 education:

33 (1) The number of teachers prepared;

34 (2) the number of students reached;

35 (3) the number and percent of students reached disaggregated by
36 gender, race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status; and

37 (4) the number of teachers and school districts that implemented
38 computer science courses versus the number of prepared teachers that
39 attended professional learning.

40 Sec. 5. (a) There is hereby established the computer science educator
41 program to promote the advancement of computer science licensed and
42 preservice teacher preparation in Kansas.

43 (b) Subject to appropriations therefor, the state board of regents may

1 award scholarships to licensed and preservice teachers who:

2 (1) Are enrolled in a course of instruction offered by a postsecondary
3 educational institution that:

4 (A) For licensed teachers, is for additional postsecondary credit; or

5 (B) for preservice teachers, is leading to licensure as a teacher; and

6 (2) have completed one course in computer science during such
7 enrollment.

8 (c) Scholarships awarded under the program shall be in an amount
9 not to exceed \$1,000 for each scholarship recipient. The state board of
10 regents shall prioritize scholarship awards for applicants who:

11 (1) Are from underrepresented socioeconomic demographic groups;
12 or

13 (2) agree to teach computer science in rural schools and schools with
14 higher percentages of students from underrepresented socioeconomic
15 demographic groups.

16 (d) The state board of regents may coordinate with postsecondary
17 educational institutions to support eligible preservice education programs
18 at such institutions with the development and implementation of pathways
19 in computer science education to help preservice teachers obtain a
20 certification to teach computer science education within their intended
21 major and area of certification.

22 (e) The state board of regents shall adopt rules and regulations
23 necessary to implement and administer the computer science educator
24 program, including, but not limited to, requirements for scholarship
25 eligibility and applications for such scholarships.

26 (f) As used in this section, the term "postsecondary educational
27 institution" means any state educational institution, community college or
28 not-for-profit institution of postsecondary education. A not-for-profit
29 institution of postsecondary education shall have its main campus or
30 principal place of operation in Kansas, be operated independently and not
31 controlled or administered by any state agency or subdivision of the state,
32 maintain open enrollment and be accredited by a nationally recognized
33 accrediting agency for higher education in the United States.

34 Sec. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
35 publication in the statute book.