

HB332 INTRODUCED



1 HB332
2 7B86J2E-1
3 By Representatives Faulkner, Collins, Hulsey, Baker, Colvin,
4 Shaw, Datcher, Moore (M), DuBose, Woods
5 RFD: Education Policy
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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, completion of a computer science course is not required for graduation from an Alabama public K-12 school.

This bill would require all Alabama public school students to complete an approved computer science course in order to graduate.

This bill would also provide standards for approved computer science courses.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 schools; to amend Sections 16-46B-2 and 16-46B-7, Code of Alabama 1975, to require all Alabama public school students to complete an approved computer science course as a requirement for graduation; and to provide standards for approved computer science courses.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 16-46B-2 and 16-46B-7, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§16-46B-2

(a) (1) Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, each



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29 public high school shall offer at least one authentic computer
30 science course from a department-approved list.

31 (2) Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, each public
32 middle school shall offer instruction in middle school
33 computer science courses approved by the department.

34 (3) Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, each public
35 elementary school shall offer instruction on the basics of
36 computer science and computational thinking.

37 (b) A computer science course or instruction in
38 computer science offered by a public school shall satisfy all
39 of the following:

40 (1) Be of high quality, as defined by the department.

41 (2) Meet or exceed the standards and curriculum
42 requirements, as they relate to authentic computer science,
43 established by the board in the state course of study for
44 digital literacy and computer science pursuant to Section
45 16-35-4 and be on the approved list of computer science
46 courses.

47 (c) A computer science course offered by a public high
48 school should be offered through an in-person setting and
49 shall be offered as a virtual or distance learning course
50 option only when an in-person classroom setting is not
51 practicable. A rationale for using the virtual or distance
52 learning option shall be included in the annual report.

53 (d) Beginning with public school students who will
54 graduate during the 2031-2032 school year, the department
55 shall ensure that all approved computer science courses and
56 content that meet graduation requirements pursuant to Section



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57 16-46B-7, shall include, but not be limited to, instruction in
58 the following areas:

59 (1) Artificial intelligence and emerging technologies,
60 which is the exploration of how artificial intelligence and
61 other emerging technologies work and their application to real
62 world scenarios.

63 (2) Computational thinking, which is the application of
64 logical reasoning, problem decomposition, pattern recognition,
65 and algorithm design to solve complex problems.

66 (3) Data and information, which is the understanding of
67 how data is collected, represented, processed, stored, and
68 analyzed, and the importance of data security and privacy.

69 (4) Impacts of computing, which is the examination of
70 the ethical, social, and global effects of computing on
71 individuals, organizations, and society.

72 (5) Network and the Internet, which is the basic
73 understanding of computer networks, the Internet, protocols,
74 and cybersecurity principles.

75 (6) Programming and coding, which is instruction in
76 programming languages and coding skills to develop functional
77 software and application.

78 (e) The standards provided in subsection (d) shall be
79 subject to the review standards set forth in Chapter 35 to
80 ensure alignment with current research, best practices, and
81 advancements in technology.

82 (f) The enforcement of this section shall comply with
83 Section 16-1-11.1."

84 "§16-46B-7



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85 (a) Before June 30, 2020, and in accordance with
86 Section 16-35-4, the department shall identify approved
87 computer science courses that may fulfill one unit of academic
88 credit for any mathematics or science course for high school
89 graduation.

90 (b) Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, for
91 the purposes of high school graduation requirements and
92 satisfying mathematics or science freshman admission
93 requirements for a public institution of higher education
94 physically located in this state, as determined by the
95 institution of higher education, a computer science course
96 successfully completed under subsection (a) shall be
97 equivalent to either of the following:

98 (1) One mathematics course credit.

99 (2) One science course credit.

100 (c) (1) Beginning with the graduating class of 2032, all
101 public school students shall demonstrate digital literacy by
102 earning at least one credit in a department approved computer
103 science course or by completing a department approved course
104 with embedded computer science skills and experiences. This
105 requirement shall not result in an increase in the number of
106 credits required for graduation.

107 (2) Each computer science credit earned shall count as
108 a college and career readiness indicator and may fulfill any
109 one of the following, as determined by the local
110 superintendent of education:

111 a. One mathematics course credit.

112 b. One science course credit.



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113 c. One career and technical education course credit.

114 d. One elective credit."

115 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October

116 1, 2025.