

House Bill 1027

By: Representatives Ballard of the 147th, Jones of the 25th, Erwin of the 32nd, Dubnik of the 29th, and Horner of the 3rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum under the "Quality Basic Education
3 Act," so as to provide that beginning in the 2026-2027 school year at least a half-credit
4 computer science course shall be a high school graduation requirement; to require that such
5 course shall not include virtual or remote instruction, subject to an exception; to provide for
6 such exception; to revise legislative findings; to provide for related matters; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
11 relating to competencies and core curriculum under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is
12 amended by revising Code Section 20-2-149.3, relating to requirements for computer science
13 education, as follows:

14 "20-2-149.3.

15 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

- 16 (1) Education in computer science is a critical need for the students of Georgia ~~for the~~
17 ~~twenty-first century; and~~
- 18 (2) ~~Less than 0.5 percent of high school graduates have taken a computer science course;~~
19 (3) ~~There are thousands of unfulfilled computer science jobs in the state; and~~
- 20 (4) The ~~logical~~ critical thinking skills taught by computer science are ~~now~~ very valuable
21 in many noncomputer science jobs, as technology has become embedded in most
22 professions.
- 23 (b) As used in this Code section, the term:
- 24 (1) 'Computer science' means the study of computers, algorithmic processes, coding, and
25 ~~logical~~ critical thinking, including computer principles, their hardware and software
26 designs, their implementation, and their impact on society.
- 27 (2) 'Computer science courses and content' means high school courses that teach
28 computer science as stand-alone implementations and middle school courses that provide
29 instruction in computer science in stand-alone implementations or by being embedded
30 in other subjects and focus on how to create and understand technology, rather than by
31 simply using technology.
- 32 (3) 'High-quality professional learning' means professional development activities that:
33 (A) Clarify the conceptual foundations of computer science;
34 (B) Teach research based practices, including hands-on and inquiry based learning; and
35 (C) Are intended for teachers with or without prior exposure to computer science.
- 36 (4) 'High-quality professional learning providers' means institutions of higher education
37 in this state, local school systems, nonprofit organizations, or private entities that have
38 successfully designed, implemented, and scaled high-quality professional learning for
39 teachers and are approved or recommended by the State Board of Education in
40 coordination with the Department of Education.
- 41 (5) 'Offer' means providing a course taught by a computer science teacher:
42 (A) Who is onsite at the physical location of the school; or

43 (B) Who is not onsite at the physical location of the school but conducts the course
44 through virtual means with a proctor onsite at the physical location of the school.

45 (c)(1) Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year:

46 (A) Each local school system shall provide that at least one high school in its school
47 system offer a course in computer science;

48 (B) Each local school system shall provide that all middle schools in its school system
49 offer instruction in exploratory computer science;

50 (C) Each state charter school that serves high school students shall offer a course in
51 computer science;

52 (D) Each state charter school that serves middle school students shall offer instruction
53 in exploratory computer science;

54 (E) Each local school system may provide that all elementary schools in its school
55 system offer instruction in exploratory computer science; and

56 (F) Each state charter school that serves elementary school students may offer
57 instruction in exploratory computer science.

58 (2) Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, each local school system shall provide that
59 at least 50 percent of the high schools in its school system offer a course in computer
60 science.

61 (3) Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, each local school system shall provide that
62 all high schools in its school system offer a course in computer science.

63 (4)(A) Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, each local board of education shall
64 require all students, as a condition of graduation from high school, to complete at least
65 a half-credit course in computer science which implements a minimum course of
66 instruction based on content standards prescribed by the State Board of Education.

67 (B) The course in computer science which satisfies a student's graduation requirement
68 under this paragraph shall not include virtual or remote instruction unless the only
69 feasible opportunity for such student to complete such graduation requirement is

70 through virtual or remote instruction; provided, however, that, in such cases, the
71 student's school principal and parent or guardian, or the student if he or she has reached
72 the age of majority, shall provide written verification to the Department of Education
73 that only virtual or remote instruction was feasible for such course.

74 (d) The Department of Education shall ensure that the Georgia Virtual School operated
75 pursuant to Code Section 20-2-319.1 has sufficient capacity to enable schools to utilize
76 computer science courses to meet the needs of such schools as a result of this Code section.

77 (e)(1) Subject to appropriations, grants shall be provided to eligible entities to deliver
78 professional development programs for teachers providing instruction in computer
79 science courses and content.

80 (2) Eligible entities shall include local school systems, consortia of local school systems,
81 local charter schools, state charter schools, and high-quality professional learning
82 providers working in partnership with local school systems.

83 (3) Criteria for grant awards to eligible entities pursuant to this subsection shall include:

84 (A) The number of teachers in a local school system that require training and the
85 number of teachers in a local school system that have already received training; and

86 (B) The willingness of local school systems to make available their teachers who have
87 received training in computer science courses and content to provide computer science
88 instruction in another local school system or systems.

89 (4) The Department of Education shall submit a report on December 1 of each year to
90 the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
91 chairperson of the Senate Education and Youth Committee, and the chairperson of the
92 House Committee on Education. Such report shall include the number of teachers
93 trained, the number of schools offering training, the number of students served and the
94 demographics of such students, and a list of the eligible entities that provided the
95 training."

96

SECTION 2.

97 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.