

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 414 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

As Engrossed: S1/20/21 S2/23/21

A Bill

SENATE BILL 107

By: Senators J. English, *Irvin*

By: Representative Vaught

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION
ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2021; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION
ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2021.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-16-152. Computer Science Education Advancement Act of 2021.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Computer Science Education Advancement Act of 2021".

(b)(1) Beginning with the entering ninth grade class of 2022-2023, a public high school student shall be required to earn one (1) unit of credit in a Department of Education-approved high school computer science course before the student graduates.

(2) The one (1) unit required in subdivision (b)(1) of this section may be earned in grades eight through twelve (8-12).

(3) A computer science course offered by a public high school shall:

(A) Be of high quality;

(B) Meet or exceed the curriculum standards and requirements established by the State Board of Education; and

(C) Be made available in a traditional classroom setting.



a blended learning environment, an online-based or other technology-based format that is tailored to meet the needs of each participating student.

(c)(1) The department shall designate at least four state board-approved computer science courses that students in grade eight (8) may take for high school credit.

(2) If a student in grade eight (8) wishes to take a course not designated, a school district must comply with any existing course approval requirements.

(d) Beginning in August 2022, the department shall make available to all public schools high-quality digital content aligned to state board-approved computer science courses.

(e)(1) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, a public school district shall employ a computer science teacher at each high school in the public school district.

(2) A computer science teacher employed in accordance with subdivision (e)(1) of this section shall hold a license approved by the state board.

(f) The state board may adopt rules to administer this section, including rules for flexible options to license computer science teachers, which may include without limitation, approval codes, technical permits, ancillary licenses, and standard licenses.

/s/J. English

APPROVED: 3/23/21