

By: Senator(s) Tollison

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2096

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
2 EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A MANDATORY K-12 COMPUTER  
3 SCIENCE CURRICULUM WHICH INCLUDES INSTRUCTION IN COMPUTER CODING;  
4 TO PRESCRIBE MINIMUM COMPONENTS OF THE CURRICULUM; TO PROVIDE FOR  
5 TEACHER TRAINING; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) The State Department of Education is  
8 authorized and directed to develop and implement a mandatory K-12  
9 computer science curriculum which includes instruction in computer  
10 coding to be phased in, in all public schools beginning with the  
11 2018-2019 school year, as provided in this section.

12 (2) Public schools shall provide students in Grades K-12  
13 opportunities for learning computer science, including, but not  
14 limited to, computer coding and computer programming. Such  
15 opportunities may include coding instruction in elementary school  
16 and middle school, instruction to develop students' computer usage  
17 and digital literacy skills in middle school, and courses in  
18 computer science, computer coding, and computer programming in  
19 high school, including earning-related industry certifications.



20 (3) Elementary schools and middle schools may establish  
21 digital classrooms in which students are provided opportunities to  
22 improve digital literacy and competency; to learn digital skills,  
23 such as coding, multiple media presentation, and the manipulation  
24 of multiple digital graphic images; and to earn digital tool  
25 certificates and certifications and grade-appropriate,  
26 technology-related industry certifications.

27 (4) High schools may provide students opportunities to take  
28 computer science courses to satisfy high school graduation  
29 requirements, including, but not limited to, the following:

30 (a) High school computer science courses of sufficient  
31 rigor, as identified by the State Department of Education, such  
32 that one (1) credit in computer science and the earning of related  
33 industry certifications constitute the equivalent of up to one (1)  
34 of the mathematics requirement, with the exception of Algebra I or  
35 higher-level mathematics, or up to one (1) credit of the science  
36 requirement, with the exception of Biology I or higher-level  
37 science, for high school graduation. Computer science courses and  
38 technology-related industry certifications may be identified as  
39 eligible for meeting mathematics or science requirements for high  
40 school graduation.

41 (b) High school computer technology courses in 3D rapid  
42 prototype printing of sufficient rigor, as identified by the State  
43 Department of Education, such that one or more credits in such  
44 courses and related industry certifications earned may satisfy up



45 to two (2) credits of mathematics required for high school  
46 graduation with the exception of Algebra I. Computer technology  
47 courses in 3D rapid prototype printing and related industry  
48 certifications may be identified as eligible for meeting  
49 mathematics requirements for high school graduation.

50 (5) The State Department of Education shall provide annual  
51 training for teachers and administrators in order to phase in the  
52 K-12 Computer Science Curriculum beginning in the 2018-2019 school  
53 year. The State Department of Education may contract with private  
54 and nonprofit providers for teacher training and for student  
55 instruction, and is encouraged to utilize available cost-free  
56 computer coding training and instruction. Teachers may receive  
57 computer coding training online.

58 (6) The State Board of Education is authorized to promulgate  
59 rules and regulations to implement the K-12 computer science  
60 curriculum established in this act.

61 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
62 and after July 1, 2018.

