

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**Minnesota Celebrates Computer Science Education Week**

*Governor Urges Activities in MN Schools; Advocates Prioritize Policy Change*

**ST. PAUL, MN**—Today, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz [proclaimed](#) December 5-11 Computer Science Education Week and urged schools, clubs, parents, and students to “celebrate and actively explore computer science activities.” First established in 2009, the week is an annual call to action to inspire K-12 students to learn computer science, advocate for equity, and celebrate the contributions of students, teachers, and partners to the field. 2022 is the first year Minnesota has issued a proclamation.

Minnesota lags behind many other states in giving all students the opportunity to learn computer science (CS). Currently, only 21% of high schools offer foundational computer science courses, putting Minnesota in last place for access to this important field (nationally, 53% of high schools offer foundational computer science courses).

In an effort to address the lack of K-12 computer science in Minnesota, Computer Science for All Minnesota (CSforAll-MN) this week released policy priorities that aim to expand equitable computer science education opportunities. Priorities include creating a plan to expand CS education, adopting computer science education standards, and funding teacher professional development.

CSforAll-MN is a collaborative effort that includes K-12 and post-secondary education leaders, MNTech, Code.org, Computer Science Teachers Association, SciMathMN and others to advocate for policies and resources. CSEdWeek activities\* are happening in schools from Duluth to Bloomington to Rochester and can be followed via CSforAll-MN’s social media @CSforAllMN. Organizers are encouraged to register their CS Ed Week event at CSEdWeek.org’s [website](#).

**Facts on CS Education in Minnesota:**

- Currently, only 21% of high schools offer foundational computer science courses, putting Minnesota in last place for access to this important field (nationally, 53% of high schools offer foundational computer science courses).

- 43.5% of MN high schools students attend a school that offers foundational computer science.
- Of the 1,432 Advanced Placement CS exams taken in Minnesota in 2020-21, 23% were female. Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and Native American student exam-takers were also underrepresented relative to the population.
- Minnesota companies of all sorts will need an estimated 45,000 IT professionals in the next five years, but the state's education systems are not keeping up with demand.
- In 2022, MN averaged 12,107 open computing jobs each month, with an average salary of \$92,494.
- Minnesota graduated 1,533 students with computer science degrees in 2019.
- Last summer, Governor Walz joined with other governors to sign the Compact to Expand K-12 Computer Science Education.
- Several Minnesota-based company executives, such as Target and Land O'Lakes also urged education leaders and policymakers to expand computer science education and update curriculum to support workforce needs.
- Minnesota is home to several educational and nonprofit resources to support CS education, including CodeSavvy, Girls Who Code clubs, HighTech Kids, MN STEM Partnership, MN Academy of Science, National Center for Computer Science Education, SciMathMN, and many others.

## References and Resources

Governor's Proclamation:

<https://mntech.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/12.05.22-Computer-Science-Education-Week-Signed78.pdf>

Computer Science for All Minnesota: <https://csforallmn.org/> @CSforAllMN #CSforAllMN

CSforAll-MN Policy Priorities:

<https://csforallmnv2.files.wordpress.com/2022/12/csforall-mn2022-23policypriorities.pdf>

CS Education Week Website: <https://www.csedweek.org/> Register events:

<https://www.csedweek.org/connect>

Minnesota CS Ed By the Numbers 2022:

<https://advocacy.code.org/state-handouts/Minnesota.pdf>

Compact to Expand K-12 Computer Science Education, National Governor's Association:

<https://www.nga.org/computerscience/>

CEOs for CS: <https://www.ceosforcs.com/>

MN State of Tech Talent Report: [https://issuu.com/mntech/docs/mn\\_state\\_of\\_tech\\_talent\\_report](https://issuu.com/mntech/docs/mn_state_of_tech_talent_report)

MNTech Blogpost:

<https://mntech.org/celebrating-computer-science-education-week-in-minnesota/>

A Bad Report Card for Computer Science in Minnesota - TCB, October 2022:

<https://tcbmag.com/a-bad-report-card-for-minnesotas-computer-science-education/>

**\*CS Ed Week events open to reporters with prior arrangement only:**

Minnesota Computer Club - *Winter Coding Competition* - Middle and High School students can win prizes and the school with the highest participation will win a giant trophy. Puzzles

released one per day at midnight. Location is online from **Dec. 1 - 31**. Visit <https://mncomputerclub.com> for more information or email John Bartucz [jbartucz@umn.edu](mailto:jbartucz@umn.edu)

Bloomington Public Schools- *New Code Academy CS in the Makerspace*. High school students will support activities with elementary students at Washburn Elementary. New Code Academy is the on-line CS focused school in Bloomington. The event will be held in-person on **Dec. 7th** at Washburn Elementary 12:45-3pm. Please contact Kate Martin [kmartin@isd271.org](mailto:kmartin@isd271.org)

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