



293960

576-03007-18

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations  
(Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to computer science instruction;  
amending s. 1007.2616, F.S.; defining the term  
"computer science"; providing requirements for  
specified instruction relating to computer science;  
requiring school districts to provide computer science  
courses in a specified number of schools by certain  
dates; requiring certain computer science courses to  
be included in the Course Code Directory and published  
on the Department of Education's website by a  
specified date; providing that student enrollment in  
certain courses offered by the Florida Virtual School  
meet specified requirements; providing that a charter  
school is not required to offer computer science  
courses; providing that charter schools that offer  
such courses may be used in meeting a school  
district's percentage thresholds; requiring the  
Florida Virtual School to offer certain computer  
science courses; requiring school districts to provide  
access to computer science courses offered by the  
Florida Virtual School or by other means under certain  
circumstances; providing funds for school districts to  
provide professional development for classroom  
teachers, subject to legislative appropriation;  
providing Department of Education responsibilities for  
the distribution of such funds; requiring that high  
school students be provided opportunities to take



293960

576-03007-18

28 counter science courses to meet certain graduation  
29 requirements; providing funds for bonuses for certain  
30 classroom teachers, subject to legislative  
31 appropriation; providing funding for high-need  
32 technology grants for school districts, subject to  
33 legislative appropriation; requiring, rather than  
34 authorizing, the State Board of Education to adopt  
35 rules; providing an effective date.

36  
37 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

38  
39 Section 1. Section 1007.2616, Florida Statutes, is amended  
40 to read:

41 1007.2616 Computer science and technology instruction.—

42 (1) For the purposes of this section, the term "computer  
43 science" means the study of computers and algorithmic processes,  
44 including their principles, hardware and software designs,  
45 applications, and their impact on society, and includes computer  
46 coding and computer programming.

47 (2) (a) ~~(1)~~ Public schools shall provide students in grades  
48 K-12 opportunities for learning computer science, including, but  
49 not limited to, computer coding and computer programming. Such  
50 opportunities may include coding instruction in elementary  
51 school and middle school and, instruction to develop students'  
52 computer usage and digital literacy skills in middle school, and  
53 must include courses in computer science, ~~computer coding, and~~  
54 ~~computer programming~~ in middle school and high school,  
55 including, but not limited to, earning-related industry  
56 certifications. Such courses must be integrated into each school



293960

576-03007-18

57 district's middle and high schools, including combination  
58 schools in which any of grades 6 through 12 are taught, as  
59 follows:

60 1. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, a school  
61 district shall provide at least one computer science course in  
62 no less than 4 percent of the district's total number of middle,  
63 high, and combination schools.

64 2. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, a school  
65 district shall provide at least one computer science course in  
66 no less than 7 percent of the district's total number of middle,  
67 high, and combination schools.

68 3. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, a school  
69 district shall provide at least one computer science course in  
70 no less than 10 percent of the district's total number of  
71 middle, high, and combination schools.

72 4. Notwithstanding subparagraphs 1.-3., a school district  
73 with 10 or fewer public middle, high, and combination schools  
74 shall provide at least one computer science course in at least  
75 one middle, high, or combination school no later than the 2020-  
76 2021 school year.

77 (b) Computer science courses that count toward the  
78 percentage thresholds in paragraph (a) must be identified in the  
79 Course Code Directory and published on the Department of  
80 Education's website no later than July 1, 2018. The State Board  
81 of Education shall develop rules so that additional computer  
82 science courses may be subsequently identified and posted on the  
83 department's website.

84 (c) Student enrollment in computer science courses offered  
85 by the Florida Virtual School pursuant to subsection (3) may be



293960

576-03007-18

86 used to satisfy the requirements of subparagraphs (a)1.-3.

87 (d) A charter school is not required to offer a computer  
88 science course; however, enrollment of a charter school's  
89 students in a computer science course under this section may be  
90 included in the school district's percentage calculation.

91 (3) The Florida Virtual School shall offer computer science  
92 courses identified in the Course Code Directory pursuant to  
93 paragraph (2) (b). If a school district does not offer an  
94 identified course, the district must provide students access to  
95 the course through the Florida Virtual School or through other  
96 means.

97 (4) (a) Subject to legislative appropriation, a school  
98 district or a consortium of school districts may apply to the  
99 department, in a format prescribed by the department, for  
100 funding to deliver or facilitate training for classroom teachers  
101 to earn an educator certificate in computer science pursuant to  
102 s. 1012.56 or an industry certification associated with a course  
103 identified in the Course Code Directory pursuant to paragraph  
104 (2) (b). Such funding may only be used to provide training for  
105 classroom teachers and to pay fees for examinations that lead to  
106 a credential pursuant to this paragraph.

107 (b) Once the department has identified courses in the  
108 Course Code Directory pursuant to paragraph (2) (b), the  
109 department shall establish a deadline for submitting  
110 applications. The department shall award funding to school  
111 districts in a manner that allows for an equitable distribution  
112 of funding statewide based on student population.

113 (5) ~~(2)~~ Elementary schools and middle schools may establish  
114 digital classrooms in which students are provided opportunities



293960

576-03007-18

115 to improve digital literacy and competency; to learn digital  
116 skills, such as coding, multiple media presentation, and the  
117 manipulation of multiple digital graphic images; and to earn  
118 digital tool certificates and certifications pursuant to s.  
119 1003.4203 and grade-appropriate, technology-related industry  
120 certifications.

121 (6)-(3) High school students must be provided ~~schools may~~  
122 ~~provide students~~ opportunities to take computer science courses  
123 to satisfy high school graduation requirements, including, but  
124 not limited to, the following:

125 (a) High school computer science courses of sufficient  
126 rigor, as identified by the commissioner, such that one credit  
127 in computer science and the earning of related industry  
128 certifications constitute the equivalent of up to one credit of  
129 the mathematics requirement, with the exception of Algebra I or  
130 higher-level mathematics, or up to one credit of the science  
131 requirement, with the exception of Biology I or higher-level  
132 science, for high school graduation. Computer science courses  
133 and technology-related industry certifications that are  
134 identified as eligible for meeting mathematics or science  
135 requirements for high school graduation shall be included in the  
136 Course Code Directory.

137 (b) High school computer technology courses in 3D rapid  
138 prototype printing of sufficient rigor, as identified by the  
139 commissioner, such that one or more credits in such courses and  
140 related industry certifications earned may satisfy up to two  
141 credits of mathematics required for high school graduation with  
142 the exception of Algebra I. Computer technology courses in 3D  
143 rapid prototype printing and related industry certifications



293960

576-03007-18

144 that are identified as eligible for meeting mathematics  
145 requirements for high school graduation shall be included in the  
146 Course Code Directory.

147 (7) Subject to legislative appropriation, a classroom  
148 teacher who was evaluated as effective or highly effective  
149 pursuant to s. 1012.34 in the previous school year or who is  
150 newly hired by the district school board and has not been  
151 evaluated pursuant to s. 1012.34 must receive a bonus as  
152 follows:

153 (a) If the classroom teacher holds an educator certificate  
154 in computer science pursuant to s. 1012.56 or if he or she has  
155 passed the computer science subject area examination and holds  
156 an adjunct certificate issued by a school district pursuant to  
157 s. 1012.57, he or she shall receive a bonus of \$1,000 after each  
158 year the individual completes teaching a computer science course  
159 identified in the Course Code Directory pursuant to paragraph  
160 (2)(b) at a public middle, high, or combination school in the  
161 state, for up to 3 years.

162 (b) If the classroom teacher holds an industry  
163 certification associated with a course identified in the Course  
164 Code Directory pursuant to paragraph (2)(b), he or she shall  
165 receive a bonus of \$500 after each year the individual completes  
166 teaching the identified course at a public middle, high, or  
167 combination school in the state, for up to 3 years.

168  
169 A school district shall report a qualifying classroom teacher to  
170 the department by a date and in a format established by the  
171 department. An eligible classroom teacher shall receive his or  
172 her bonus upon completion of the school year in which he or she



293960

576-03007-18

173 taught the course. A teacher may not receive more than one bonus  
174 per year under this subsection.

175 (8) Subject to legislative appropriation, the department  
176 shall award high-need technology grants to eligible school  
177 districts if the funds provided in the Florida digital  
178 classrooms allocation pursuant to s. 1011.62(12) are  
179 insufficient to meet the costs specified in that subsection and  
180 the district has no remaining instructional materials funds  
181 under s. 1011.67. The department shall establish an application  
182 process and eligibility criteria. Such criteria must be based on  
183 a school district's technology needs and must provide for an  
184 equitable distribution of funding based on the geographic  
185 distribution of the student population among school districts  
186 determined to have a high need for technology.

187 (9) ~~(4)~~ The State Board of Education shall ~~may~~ adopt rules  
188 to administer this section.

189 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.