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Murphy Administration Announces Awarding of Over $1.3 Million in Grants to Continue Support of Computer Science Programs in New Jersey Schools

Trenton, NJ – Governor Phil Murphy and Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer today announced awards of over $1.3 million for two grants to expand computer science in schools: *Expanding Access to Computer Science High School Courses* and *Expanding Computer Science Professional Learning*. The *Expanding Access to Computer Science High School Courses* grant will help 12 school districts offer new, high-quality computer science courses in the high school grades; the *Expanding Computer Science Professional Learning* grant will fund three Computer Science Hubs for teacher training operated by three institutions of higher education.

"Expanding access to computer science education is critical to preparing New Jersey's students for the careers of the future," **said Governor Murphy**. "With these grants, we are ensuring that more schools can offer high-quality computer science courses and that our educators receive the training they need to prepare and inspire the next generation of innovators. By continuing to invest in these programs, we are strengthening our workforce, driving economic growth, and reinforcing New Jersey's leadership in technology and innovation."

"The New Jersey Department of Education's Computer Science for All State Plan, introduced six years ago, provides the foundation for these growing opportunities," **said Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer.** "As crucial skills continue to evolve because of technology, expanding access to computer science courses ensures that more students are prepared for the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly changing workforce. These grants represent our continued commitment to providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in high-demand, innovative careers."

According to the 2024 State of Computer Science Education report by Code.org, over 86 percent of New Jersey high schools currently offer computer science courses – an increase from 59 percent in 2017-2018. The national average for high schools offering computer science courses is 60 percent.

Expanding Access to Computer Science High School Courses

This grant will help schools establish new advanced computer science courses, such as College Board-approved Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science courses, courses in Cybersecurity or Artificial Intelligence (AI), and courses that are eligible for credit in computer science at a college or university. The last iteration of this grant enabled schools to fund courses such as AI and Human Interaction, eSports and Cybersecurity, and multiple AP Computer Science courses.

As part of the program, grantees will also organize and host one or more outreach events for elementary or middle school students to inspire students traditionally underrepresented in computer science fields. The students enrolled in the high schools' new computer science courses will participate in the event by sharing artifacts of their experience and will serve as near-peer role models to the younger students.

The new courses must be aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Computer Science (NJSLS-CS), and courses must be available for student enrollment in the 2026-2027 school year.

Expanding Access to Computer Science High School Courses Grant Awards

Region	School District	Initial Award
Northern	Wayne Township	$41,500
Northern	Emerson	$41,500
Northern	Hoboken	$41,497
Northern	Morris Hills Regional	$41,500
Northern	Pompton Lakes	$41,000
Central	Wall Township	$41,495
Central	Somerville Borough	$41,357
Central	Union Township	$40,500
Central	Keyport	$41,498
Southern	Eastern Camden County Regional	$40,115
Southern	Burlington City	$41,500
Southern	Barnegat Township	$39,941
Total Project Allocation		**$493,403**

The Department is currently working to redistribute remaining funds to these awardees.

Expanding Computer Science Professional Learning

This grant will establish three regional Computer Science Learning Hubs to provide professional learning for teachers and school administrators. The program aims to increase the number of high-quality educators from diverse backgrounds available to teach computer science, provide professional learning opportunities and resources to school districts, and expand equitable access to computer science for all students. The programming offered by the Hubs created by the institutions of higher education will be open to the school districts and charter schools that receive grant funding to implement Computer Science courses in their high schools.

Expanding Computer Science Professional Learning Awards

Region	Recipient	Award
Northern	Montclair State University	$280,000
Central	College of New Jersey	$280,000
Southern	Stockton University	$280,000
Total Project Allocation		**$840,000**

Seven Years of Computer Science Innovation

In total, the Murphy Administration has invested over $9 million in these initiatives, supporting the establishment of six Computer Science Learning Hubs and computer science course offerings in over 50 school districts and charter schools.

- o The Fiscal Year 2019 state budget included $2 million for the Advanced Computer Science grant program to fund the implementation of higher-level computer science coursework in 22 schools.
- o The Fiscal Year 2021 state budget included $800,000 in grants to fund Computer Science Learning Hubs at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Kean University, and Rutgers University in New Brunswick.
- o The Fiscal Year 2022 state budget included $2 million that was allocated toward grants that supported schools as they implemented the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Computer Science; the grants were awarded to Fairleigh Dickenson University, Montclair State University, Stockton University, and The College of New Jersey.
- o The Fiscal Year 2023 state budget included $2 million to continue two of the grant programs funded in Fiscal Year 2022.
- o The Fiscal Year 2024 budget included $2 million to fund the implementation of new computer science classes in 27 high schools and three computer science higher education hubs at Montclair State University, Stockton University, and The College of New Jersey.
- o The Fiscal Year 2025 budget included $1.6 million for the K-12 Computer Science Initiative – including the $1.3 million being announced today, as well as $750,000 for Artificial Intelligence Innovation in Education Grants.
- o The Governor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 includes a further $1 million for a merged K-12 Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Education Initiative.

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