



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

August 21, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

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of Education

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**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education  
**FROM:** Eric G. Mackey   
State Superintendent of Education  
**RE:** Computer Science Certificate Approaches

The Educator Certification Section recently began issuing certificates in the teaching field of Computer Science. Listed below are the various certification approaches that will lead to a certificate in Computer Science.

**Additional Teaching Field Approach: Now Available**

Individuals who hold a valid Alabama Professional Educator Certificate in a teaching field, obtain a passing score on Praxis 5652 Computer Science, and verify the required classroom teaching experience in Grades P-12 may add Computer Science for Grades 6-12 to their existing certificate. Information regarding this approach may be found at [www.alsde.edu/edcert](http://www.alsde.edu/edcert) (Other Approaches: Certification Based on Test).

**Adjunct Instructor Permit: Now Available**

The superintendent of a city/county local education agency (LEA) may request an adjunct instructor permit for an individual who will be employed in the area of Technical Education: Computer Science *on a less than half-time basis*. The individual must meet the appropriate occupational proficiency. Information regarding this approach may be found at [www.alsde.edu/edcert](http://www.alsde.edu/edcert) (Other Approaches: Adjunct Instructor Permit).

**Degree Equivalent Certificate in Technical Education: Now Available**

The superintendent of a city/county LEA may request a Degree Equivalent Certificate in the area of Technical Education: Computer Science for Grades 6-12 for an individual who meets specific educational, work experience, and occupational proficiency requirements. Information regarding this approach may be found at [www.alsde.edu/edcert](http://www.alsde.edu/edcert) (Career/Technical Certificates: Technical Education).

**Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field: Now Available**

The superintendent of a city/county LEA may request a Provisional Certificate for Grades 6-12 in the area of Computer Science for an individual who meets specific degree requirements and obtains a passing score on Praxis 5652 Computer Science. Information regarding this approach may be found at [www.alsde.edu/edcert](http://www.alsde.edu/edcert) (Provisional Certificates: Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field).

**Computer Science Course Specific Permit: Not Yet Available**

Requirements as outlined by Act #2019-389 for course-specific permits are being finalized and will be available as soon as possible. Teachers who hold a valid Professional Educator Certificate or Professional Leadership Certificate and have satisfactorily completed a course-specific training may be eligible for the corresponding course-specific permit to teach the indicated course. The current computer science courses for which a permit will be available are as follows:

- 220098 Computer Science SL, IB
- 220099 Computer Science HL, IB
- 520007 Computer Science A, AP
- 520018 Computer Science Principles, AP
- 520043 Exploring Computer Science
- 520045 Computer Science Discoveries
- 520046 Computer Science Essentials-PLTW
- 520050 Introduction to Computer Science-TEALS
- 520051 Cybersecurity-PLTW
- 520052 CS Makers
- 560029 App Creators-PLTW
- 560032 Computer Science for Innovators and Makers-PLTW

The course-specific permit will be required beginning with the 2020-2021 school year; however, they will be acceptable for teaching the permit courses during the 2019-2020 school year.

**State-Approved Programs**

In addition to the certification options listed above, at the May 2019 Alabama State Board of Education (SBOE) Work Session, rules were presented to the SBOE regarding the preparation of teachers in the area of Computer Science for Alabama colleges and universities. The SBOE is expected to act on these rules at its September 12, 2019, meeting.

For questions regarding certification options for computer science, please contact Mrs. Dawn Morrison by email at [dmorrison@alsde.edu](mailto:dmorrison@alsde.edu) or Dr. Kelly Stanton by email at [kstanton@alsde.edu](mailto:kstanton@alsde.edu). Additional information regarding the implementation of items in Act #2019-389 will be forthcoming.

EGM/SHC/SG

cc: Deans of Education  
Dr. Daniel Boyd  
Dr. Elisabeth Davis  
Mr. Sean J. Stevens  
Mrs. Dawn Morrison  
Dr. Jayne A. Meyer  
Mrs. Shavon H. Cummings  
Dr. Kelly Stanton