



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

Alabama
State Board
of Education

October 13, 2023

MEMORANDUM

Governor Kay Ivey
President

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

Jackie Zeigler
District I

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
State Superintendent of Education

Tracie West
District II
Vice President

RE: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Application for Funds—Alabama Middle School
Computer Programming Initiative Competitive Grant

Stephanie Bell
District III

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is pleased to announce the release of the FY 2024 application for the Alabama Middle School Computer Programming Initiative Competitive Grant. Funds will be awarded to eligible local education agencies (LEAs) through a competitive grant application process for school systems seeking to fund computer programming to middle school (Grades 6-8) students.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

In order to be eligible, a school system must be an Alabama LEA public school submitting on behalf of schools with middle school (Grades 6-8) students.

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V
President Pro Tem

The application contains all regulatory requirements and a timeline of related expectations. Completed applications must be submitted to the ALSDE by digital form no later than Wednesday, November 15, 2023, by 5 p.m. The link to the form can be found at: <https://bit.ly/ALMSCSgrantFY24>. If you cannot access the form, please contact cs4alabama@alsde.edu.

Marie Manning
District VI

The guidelines for the grant application are attached. If you need clarification, please contact Mrs. Amanda C. Dykes at 334-694-4761 or via email at amanda.dykes@alsde.edu.

Belinda McRae
District VII

EGM/ACD/CF

Attachment

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

- cc: Career and Technical Education Directors
- Chief School Financial Officers
- Curriculum and Instruction Coordinators
- LEA Technology Coordinators
- Mrs. Angela Martin
- Dr. Brandon T. Payne
- Dr. Jimmy Hull
- Ms. Dawn Morrison
- Mrs. Amanda C. Dykes

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

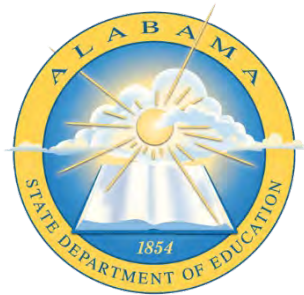
FY24-2002

ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Division of Instruction
Computer Science for Alabama Initiative

Alabama Middle School Computer Programming Initiative Grant Application/Guidelines

Fiscal Year (FY) 2024



Application Deadline

November 15, 2023

All applications must be submitted via [Application Form](#) by this date.

**If form is blocked by district, please email cs4alabama@alsde.edu*

(Submission guidelines are contained herein)

Alabama State Department of Education
Computer Science for Alabama Initiative

Attention: Amanda Dykes

3311 Gordon Persons Building

P. O. Box 302101

Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

Telephone: 334-694-4760

cs4alabama@alsde.edu

Alabama State Department of Education
Alabama Middle School Computer Programming Initiative
Grant Application
Computer Science for Alabama
FY 2024

Grant Proposal Guidelines

Purpose of the program:

The Middle School Computer Programming Initiative is a competitive grant that may be used for professional development, training, and curriculum. Local education agencies (LEAs) may use the funding for professional development in the area of computer programming. Computer programming is the process of creating a set of instructions that tell a computer how to perform a task. Some areas addressed through computer programming for middle school students include (this list is not exhaustive):

- Coding languages
- Website development (ex: HTML, CSS)
- Animations and games
- Managing and interpreting data
- Physical computing (ex: maker projects, robotics)
- Engineering
- Aerospace
- Cybersecurity
- Simulations

Only one grant is available per system. Each LEA can apply to receive funding not to exceed \$25,000 per system.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be an Alabama public school LEA submitting on behalf of schools with middle school (Grades 6-8) students.

Application Available/Competition Opens:

October 13, 2023

Deadline for Applications:

November 15, 2023

Expenditure Deadline:

September 30, 2024

Submissions:

Applications must be received by **November 15, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**, to be considered for funding. There will be no exceptions to this submission requirement since this is a competitive application process. ***Applications will be submitted electronically to <https://bit.ly/ALMSCSgrantFY24>*** and must be **approved** by the superintendent in order to be read by the reviewers. You must upload a signed application coversheet and budget detail into the form. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the application is received by the deadline. The applicant will be notified by email when the application is submitted to the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE).

Alabama State Department of Education

Alabama Middle School Computer Programming Initiative

Grant Application

Computer Science for Alabama

FY 2024

Duration:

The grant will need to be implemented during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. **Funds do not rollover. All funds must be fully expended by September 30, 2024.** The ALSDE staff may also request photos, purchase orders, quarterly reports, sign-in sheets, interim site visits, or any other documentation as requested to document successful implementation of funds spent. The LEA must submit an evaluation/expenditure report by September 30, 2024.

Grant Proposal:

Submit a grant proposal that describes the proposed project by answering the following questions in the [application form](#).

Each LEA application narrative must include:

- Question 1:** Provide a summary of your proposed project. Describe your professional development plan for implementing computer programming curriculum into your middle school(s). What type of professional development will teachers receive? Is professional development ongoing? If so, what is the time frame for professional development?
- Question 2:** What is your current phase/level of computer programming for each school that will benefit from funding from this grant? Describe if your school(s) have previous experience with teacher students about computer programming. Have teachers received previous professional development training? If so, how will this funding be used to continue to impact student learning? If your schools are at the beginning phase, explain how funding will be used to start a new computer programming curriculum.
- Question 3:** What areas of computer programming will your implementation focus? Coding languages website development (ex: HTML, CSS) animations and games, managing and interpreting data, physical computing (ex: Maker projects, robotics), engineering, aerospace, cybersecurity, simulations.
- Question 4:** What are your goals for the grant? Include goals for teachers and student learning. How will you measure each outcome? List what you want teachers to accomplish and what students will accomplish by the end of the grant period.
- Question 5:** How will this project continue beyond the grant period? Provide a description of how the school system will support and assist in the implementation of this grant.
- Question 6:** How will funds be used? List items that will be needed for successful implementation of the grant. Describe the activities in which teachers will participate and how this will impact student learning. List the items, not the quantity or cost. You will complete a budget sheet for the quantity and cost.

Alabama State Department of Education

Alabama Middle School Computer Programming Initiative

Grant Application

Computer Science for Alabama

FY 2024

The following resources may be used to assist eligible LEAs in submitting their electronic application:

- An approved Technology plan for the previous academic year.
- An assessment of the educational and related needs of middle school students in the area of technology and computer programming.
- Alabama Continuous Improvement Plan(s) (ACiPs).
- A description of the how the funds will be used to provide equipment, training, or curriculum programs that support the integration of technology for middle school students.

Budget Detail:

Indicate total amount of grant funds requested for the LEA. Provide a line-item budget for the proposed work using the budget spreadsheet section of the application. Maximum allowed request is \$25,000. Submit the budget detail as an attachment as part of the [application form](#). Budget must be in an .xlsx format.

Funding:

The Middle School Computer Programming grant funds may be used for professional development and other activities that will benefit educators and students in implementing computer science curriculum for middle school students. Each LEA may apply for up to \$25,000 for professional development.

Allowable Use of Funds

- Professional development in the area of robotics, coding, website development, animations and games, engineering, aerospace, cybersecurity, etc. All areas must be approved by ALSDE.
- Supplies for specific equipment, and/or software to support professional development.
- Travel to and from professional development opportunities (trainings, conferences, etc.).
- Funding for substitutes.

Non-Allowable Use of Funds

- Competition or entrance fees
- Furniture (chairs, desks, tables, etc.)
- Technology carts or other carrying cases for equipment
- Chargers or other power supplies for equipment
- Teacher stipends for travel

All items on the budget sheet must be approved by ALSDE.

Alabama State Department of Education

Alabama Middle School Computer Programming Initiative

Grant Application

Computer Science for Alabama

FY 2024

Selection Process and Criteria

Criteria for selection will include the following:

- The quality of the applicant's evaluation plan for the program.
- The extent to which the proposed use of funds will be used to develop or enhance computer programming within the middle school grades.
- The applicant's needs assessment and the likelihood that the program presented in the application will meet such needs.
- The extent to which the applicant demonstrates in the application and in current practice a commitment to using computer programming for robotics, coding, website development, animations and games, engineering, aerospace, and cybersecurity, etc.

Reviewing applications:

After all proposals have been read and scored using a rubric by the review panel, the proposals will be ranked from highest to lowest according to their scores. In addition, each reviewer will indicate on his/her Technical Review Form if funding of the proposal is recommended.

If the majority of the reviewers do not recommend approval, a proposal will not be considered in the approval process. However, if the majority of the reviewers recommend approval, the proposal will be considered for approval based on its rank.

The Computer Science for Alabama Section will make recommendations for awards to the State Superintendent of Education. The final decision to award a subgrant rests solely with the ALSDE.

Alabama State Department of Education, Eric G. Mackey, State Superintendent of Education

The Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama State Department of Education do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, sex, religion, national origin, or age in their programs, activities, or employment and provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person is responsible for handling inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Title IX Coordinator, Alabama State Department of Education, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, AL 36130-2101, telephone (334) 694-4717.

Alabama State Department of Education

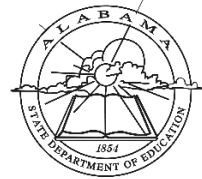
Alabama Middle School Computer Programming Initiative

Grant Application

Computer Science for Alabama
FY 2024



Alabama Middle School Computer Programming Application Initiative Application



FY 2024 Application Cover Letter

Part 1: LEA Information

LEA:	
School(s):	
Amount Requesting:	

Signature of Designated Project Manager

Contact Phone Number and Email Address

Printed Name of Project Manager

Date

Certification:

I have reviewed the attached application/budget. The proposed expenditures appear to be coded properly and will be incorporated into the LEA systemwide budget.

Signature of Chief Financial School Officer

Chief Financial School Officer Phone Number and Email Address

Printed Name of Chief Financial School Officer

Date

I certify that I am authorized by the governing board of the above-named school system or other eligible entity to submit this application or amendment; that all assurances, certifications, and disclosures submitted with the application will be observed; that the program will be implemented as described; and that the governing board is responsible for complying with all state and federal requirements, including any audit exceptions.

FOR ALSDE USE ONLY:
Approved:

Eric G. Mackey
State Superintendent of Education

Date

Signature of Superintendent or Authorized Official

Printed Name of Superintendent or Authorized Official

Email Address of Superintendent or Authorized Official

Alabama State Department of Education

Alabama Middle School Computer Programming Initiative

Grant Application

Computer Science for Alabama

FY 2024

Part 2: Narrative

Submit your answers using the [Google Form](#) provided:

Question 1: Provide a summary of your proposed project. Describe your professional development plan for implementing computer programming curriculum into your middle school(s). What type of professional development will teachers receive? Is professional development ongoing? If so, what is the time frame for professional development?

Question 2: What is your current phase/level of computer programming for each school that will benefit from funding from this grant? Describe if your school(s) have previous experience with teacher students about computer programming. Have teachers received previous professional development training? If so, how will this funding be used to continue to impact student learning? If your schools are at the beginning phase, explain how funding will be used to start a new computer programming curriculum.

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