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2021 STATE OF COMPUTER SCIENCE REPORT
HIGHLIGHTS STATE'S ACHIEVEMENTS
*"New report provides comprehensive analysis of Alabama's growth and
National progress in expanding access to Computer Science Education"*

Montgomery, Ala. – Today, Code.org, the Computer Science Teachers Association, and the Expanding Computing Education Pathways Alliance, released the *2021 State of Computer Science Education: Accelerating Action Through Advocacy*. Published annually, the report provides comprehensive analysis of national progress in computer science education, featuring national and state-level policy and implementation data, with a focus on equity and diversity.

In Alabama, we have made great strides in advancing computer science in our schools and classrooms. This year we're celebrating the significant growth in access to high-quality computer science education across our state.

The report indicates no participation disparities exist for students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups; which means continued progress in expanding access and opportunity to all students, especially those who have been traditionally under-represented in computer science and STEM fields.

We thank the teachers, students, school districts, parents, computer science advocates, lawmakers, and Governor Kay Ivey who helped make this happen – Alabama proudly supports computer science education!

"Our teachers and local administrators have worked so diligently throughout the past five years to ensure all Alabama K-12 students have more opportunities to explore Computer Science Education and technology-related careers," said State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Eric Mackey. The goal is to equip our students with the essential skills and knowledge required for today's leading STEM fields. We are proud of the great progress that our state has made and will continue to move forward with this important work of preparing every Alabama student for a lifetime of success."

Alabama has adopted all nine of the nine policies recommended by the Code.org Advocacy Coalition. These policies support computer science education in our schools. States that have adopted more of the nine policies have a greater percentage of high schools teaching computer science. In 2019, the legislation passed the Computer Science for Alabama Act (Act 2019-389), making it the most comprehensive computer science legislation on record.

Our state thanks Governor Ivey, Representative Collins, and Representative Faulkner for their great work on this great piece of legislation. As a result, *Alabama is pleased to join only five other states that have achieved this accomplishment.* We are also pleased to announce that 82 percent of public high schools in the state taught a foundational CS course in 2020-2021 compared to 57 percent the previous year. Additionally, 38 percent of students enrolled in CS were female students and 198 of our schools with a rural locale code offered a foundational CS course.

Today we celebrate the accomplishments we are making to broaden student participation in computer science, increase student access and our policy implementation efforts; recognizing that tomorrow we continue in our journey to offer high-quality computer science education to our students by supporting high-quality professional learning, so teachers build the necessary skills and confidence to teach coding and computational thinking skills in the classroom.

To learn more about the impact of Alabama's Computer Science implementation efforts visit www.cs4alabama.org or email cs4alabama@alsde.edu.

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