STATE OF NEW YORK

6120

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 30, 2023

Introduced by Sen. MARTINEZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing a computer science graduation requirement; and providing for the repeal of certain provisions of such law relating thereto

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 817 to read as follows:

§ 817. Instruction in computer science. 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

a. "Computer science" means the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, hardware and software designs, implementation, and impact on society.

b. "Computer science course" means a course at the middle or high school level that teaches computer science as a standalone implementation or, for middle school, embedded in other subjects.

2. Computer science graduation requirement. a. Students enrolled in high school shall be required to complete one high school level computer science course in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high school.

b. The department shall adopt a list of approved computer science courses no later than July first, two thousand twenty-six, which shall be made publicly available on the department's website. Such courses shall include instruction on computer science, including teaching students how to use existing technologies and how to create new technologies. Such courses shall meet or exceed the high school standards and curriculum requirements established by the respective school district. Such courses shall be taken in middle or high school grades to meet the requirements of this section.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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c. A computer science course offered by a public high school or public charter school shall be offered in an in-person setting; provided that such course shall be offered as a virtual or distance course option only when a traditional classroom setting is not feasible, as determined by the respective school district.

d. The computer science courses required by this section may additionally fulfill existing graduation requirements for a school district, as determined by the board of education of such school district.

e. Beginning July first, two thousand twenty-seven and on or before each first of July thereafter, each school district shall submit to the department a report for the prior academic year which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(i) The names and course codes of computer science courses offered in each school, including course descriptions and which state computer science standards are covered, to the extent such information is available; and

(ii) The number of computer science instructors at each school, disaggregated by:

(A) certification, if applicable;

(B) gender;

(C) race and ethnicity; and

(D) highest academic degree.

f. The department shall post publicly on its website on or before July first, two thousand twenty-eight and on or before each first of July thereafter the data received pursuant to paragraph e of this subdivision. The data received pursuant to subparagraph (ii) of paragraph h of this subdivision shall be disaggregated by school. The department shall publish a list of computer science course codes and names, including course descriptions and which courses align to the state computer science standards under this section.

g. (i) Beginning July first, two thousand twenty-six, a school district may submit a signed notification to the department that certifies a computer science course was not available for students enrolled in such school district to fulfill the requirement of this section. If such signed notification is submitted to the department, such requirement shall be waived for students enrolled in such school district.

(ii) The department shall maintain a list of the school districts that submit signed notifications pursuant to subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

h. (i) Beginning July first, two thousand twenty-six, a student may submit a waiver, which shall be developed by the department, to the school district in which such student is enrolled in the event that such student is unable to complete the computer science course requirement for graduation under this section. If such waiver is submitted to a school district, such requirement shall be waived for the student that submitted such waiver. Each school district shall submit all such waivers received from students to the department.

(ii) The department shall annually publish the number of students who submit waivers pursuant to subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

3. State computer science supervisor position. The department shall create a computer science supervisor position within the department. Such computer science supervisor shall be appointed by the commissioner and shall be responsible for effectuating the provisions of this section within the department, including the development and implementation of approved computer science education courses pursuant to this section.

§ 2. Subdivision 4 of section 3004 of the education law is amended by adding a new paragraph c to read as follows:

c. The commissioner shall ensure that teacher preparation instructions on and after July first, two thousand twenty-eight, and any program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall include instruction in computer science and instruction in information technology skills as applied to student learning and classroom instruction that are grade-level and subject area appropriate and that:

(i) clarify the conceptual foundations of computer science;

(ii) teach research-based practices, including hands-on and inquiry-based learning; and

(iii) are intended for existing teachers with or without prior exposure to computer science.

§ 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026; provided, however, that paragraphs g and h of subdivision 2 of section 817 of the education law as added by section one of this act shall expire and be deemed repealed on July 1, 2030. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.