



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Molly M. Spearman
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: November 17, 2015

RE: Hour of Code

The Hour of Code, a one-hour introduction to computer programming, is available to all South Carolina students again this year during Computer Science Education Week, December 7–13. Code.org, a non-profit dedicated to growing computer science, reports that approximately 100 million learners in 180 countries worldwide, including 430,000 students in South Carolina, have participated in the Hour of Code. Computer science drives innovation throughout the United States economy, but it remains marginalized throughout K–12 education. There are currently 586,982 open computing jobs nationwide, but only 38,175 computer science students graduated into the workforce last year.

Each district/school is challenged to give every student the opportunity to participate in the Hour of Code. Explanatory videos of various lengths are available via hourofcode.com and [youtube.com/user/CodeOrg](https://www.youtube.com/user/CodeOrg). Additionally, hourofcode.com/us/how-to provides everything needed to organize and run successful Hour of Code events throughout the week, including a tutorial guide, webinar, handouts, and a FAQ list. Participation requires neither prior experience nor access to any particular device. In fact, tutorials work on browsers, tablets, and smartphones, and there are even “unplugged” activities, which are offline tutorials demonstrating that computational thinking skills do not require a computer. Different modules have different age targets, mechanics, goals, and technology requirements, and all tutorials are self-directed. Teachers can preview tutorials to become familiar with them before Computer Science Education Week and view tips for teaching an Hour of Code via code.org/learn, code.org/educate, and code.org/promote.

Please contact Lindsay Boozer, Secondary Mathematics Education Associate in the SCDE Division of College and Career Readiness, LBoozer@ed.sc.gov, (803) 734-4702 with questions.

Attachment

cc: Chief Academic Officers
Principals
Instructional Leaders
Computer Science Teachers Association