



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents  
District Instructional Leaders  
High School Principals  
Middle School Principals  
Career Center Directors

**FROM:** David M. Mathis, Ed.D.  
Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness

**DATE:** March 28, 2018

**RE:** Computer Science Standards and Approved Courses

Superintendents and Instructional Leaders received a [memorandum](#) dated October 5, 2017, concerning the Computer Science graduation credit. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the development of Computer Science Standards and to offer guidance on approved courses for high school credit.

- The K–8 academic standards for Computer Science are available on the [SCDE website](#) and have received final approval for full implementation.
- A writing team is currently working to draft the high school Computer Science Standards with a goal of seeking approval from the State Board as well as providing professional development on the new standards during the 2018–19 school year.
- Proposed amendments State Board of Education Regulation 43-234 would eliminate Keyboarding as an option for fulfilling the one-half of the Computer Science requirement **beginning with the 2018–19 school year**. However, students who have earned the half credit through Keyboarding, including students in middle school, prior to 2018–19, would have met one-half of their one credit Computer Science requirement.

In planning for the 2018–19 school year, districts may use the current 2017–18 course offerings **except Keyboarding** to award high school credit for Computer Science found in Appendix O of the [Activity Coding System](#). Additionally, a proposed list of courses, which includes several courses that are not on Appendix O, is attached and located on the [SCDE website](#). The intent of using the current list and the proposed list is to offer districts flexibility in meeting the Computer

Science requirement for high school students until the high school Computer Science Standards are approved.

Decisions on what courses will meet the high school Computer Science Standards will be made after those standards are completed and approved. The SCDE intends for such changes to be phased in, effective in academic year 2019–20.

The following are the regulation changes related to Computer Science:

H. A school may award credit for locally designed courses under the following conditions:

1. Locally designed core subject-area courses used as graduation units of credit must be aligned with the state academic standards for the particular subject area and must be approved by the local board of trustees and the State Superintendent of Education.

2. Locally designed elective courses must be approved by the local board of trustees. No more than two units may be awarded to a student for released-time classes in religious instruction.

3. Locally designed Career and Technical Education (CATE) courses funded with state or federal CATE monies must be approved by the SCDE's Office of Career and Technology Education CATE office.

~~I. A school may award the PE credit for a diploma if the PE course meets all statutory requirements including the personal fitness and wellness component and the lifetime fitness component.~~

~~J. A school may award the one-half unit of credit earned by the course Keyboarding for half of the required computer science unit.~~

~~K.I. A school may award credit for the American Sign Language course as the required unit in a foreign language.~~

~~L.J. A school may award credit for a college course that students in grades nine through twelve take under the district's dual credit arrangement.~~

~~***K. A student who has earned the one-half credit in Keyboarding by the 2017-18 school year will be awarded one-half unit of credit for Computer Science.***~~

If you have questions, please contact me at [DMathis@ed.sc.gov](mailto:DMathis@ed.sc.gov).