

Computer Science Education in Louisiana: Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: February 2025

This document answers general questions about [computer science education in Louisiana](#) and the implementation of the K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science.

Louisiana K-12 Student Standards for Computer Science

How were the standards created?

The [K-12 Computer Science Standards Writing Committee](#), which included parents, university professors, business and industry leaders, students, school administrators, and teachers, developed the standards collaboratively from May to August 2024. Using the Louisiana Computer Science Framework as the foundational structure, the committee worked in three grade-band groups and consulted existing computer science standards. On August 27, 2024, a nine-member steering committee representing all grade bands endorsed the [Draft K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science](#).

Where can the standards be found online?

The [Draft K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science](#) are available on the Louisiana Department of Education's [Computer Science web page](#). These standards remain in draft form and will be formally released following BESE's adoption into policy in February 2025.

What changes should schools expect concerning computer science when implementing the standards?

Schools should expect the following changes with the introduction of the computer science standards:

- Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, required Carnegie unit computer science courses must align with the 9-12 computer science standards.
- Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, computer science exploratory courses for grades 6-8 that are not Carnegie unit courses must align with the 6-8 computer science standards.
- Beginning in the 2027-2028 school year, public elementary schools must provide instruction in the basics of computer science and computational thinking aligned with the K-5 computer science standards.

What additional support can schools expect from the LDOE for computer science integration?

Within the next two years, the LDOE will provide additional guidance, including Implementation Frameworks, a list of approved computer science materials, and support for integration with high-quality instructional materials (HQIM).

What are effective ways to stay up-to-date on new information about the standards?

Ongoing guidance is available to school leaders and educators through the LDOE [Computer Science web page](#), [LDOE Newsletters](#), and the monthly [Office of Teaching and Learning Call](#).

Computer Science Implementation Timeline

What is the timeline for standards implementation?

Over the next several months, the LDOE will host webinars to provide an overview of the standards and implementation support to school systems. This information will guide systems as they create system-level teams and conduct a system-wide landscape analysis to determine the next steps and actions to implement the K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science. Starting in the 2025-2026 school year, educators, schools, and systems will use the standards to build understanding and develop system-level plans. Implementation will continue in the 2026-2027 school year as systems integrate computer science into existing coursework and introduce new courses where appropriate. Full implementation is expected in the 2027-2028 school year.

Computer Science Graduation Requirement

Will computer science courses be a graduation requirement for high school students?

BESE has not approved any policy changes related to the addition of a computer science graduation requirement at this time. Systems and schools are encouraged to review the [K-12 Computer Science Education Plan](#) and stay updated through the LDOE [Computer Science web page](#).

Computer Science Certification

What are the requirements for teachers to become certified in computer science?

Grades 6-12 teachers may add a Computer Science endorsement to their certification through the options outlined in [Bulletin 746 - Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel](#).

Will passing the Praxis 5652 be a requirement to teach Computer Science?

Passing the Praxis (5652) Computer Science Content Area Exam with a score of 149 or above is one pathway for a certified teacher in grades 6-12 to add a Computer Science endorsement to their Louisiana Teacher Certification.

Will all teachers have to take and pass the Praxis (5652) to teach the standards?

In courses where a CTE IBC in computer science is offered and a Carnegie unit credit is sought, the teacher must have a computer science certification on their teaching license. All 9-12 computer science courses must align with the 9-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science.

If a high school teacher is teaching a computer science course from a [STEM Pathway](#) provider (LSU, PLTW, or Cyber.org) they may only teach the computer science course they are trained for without additional computer science certification.

Grades 6-8 teachers instructing non-Carnegie unit credit computer science courses are not required to hold certification, but the courses must align with the 6-8 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science.

Pre-K-5 teachers are not required to add or have any teaching license certifications in computer science. However, public elementary schools must provide instruction in the basics of computer science and computational thinking aligned with the K-5 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science.

What programs or resources are available to help teachers prepare for the Praxis exam in computer science?

The [Energize Project](#) is focused on building our computer science educator workforce capacity in grades 6-12. Energize professional learning is tailored to prepare currently licensed teachers for the Praxis (5652) Computer Science Content Exam.

Teacher Training Opportunities

What training opportunities are available to teachers to enhance their computer science instruction?

For teachers in grades 6-12, the state offers no-cost Praxis (5652) exam preparation through the [Energize Project](#). This program will be delivered in virtual, hybrid, and in-person training from January to June 2025. The [Energize Project](#) is focused on building our computer science educator workforce capacity in grades 6-12. This professional learning prepares currently licensed teachers for the Praxis Computer Science Content Exam (5652) needed to add 6-12 Computer Science to their Louisiana teaching license.

K-5 teachers are encouraged to participate in the no-cost [Ignite Initiative](#), which offers virtual, hybrid, and in-person professional learning opportunities from January to June 2025. The [Ignite Initiative](#) is professional training to prepare K-5 educators to instruct students in computer science. It focuses on strengthening educators' ability to connect existing content areas with computational thinking practices and the K-5 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science.