# Computer Science Education in Louisiana: Frequently Asked Questions

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

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## 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 Certification

### Is computer science certification required?

According to Bulletin 741, computer science certification is required to teach computer science I and II. Teachers who are identified to teach one of the other computer education course offerings at the high school level must hold a valid Louisiana secondary certificate or CTTIE certificate in any area and demonstrate sufficient technology proficiencies to teach the course. The district and school shall ensure that teachers have appropriated and demonstrated technology knowledge and skills to teach the courses.

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

Bulletin 746 - Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel outlines the options for Grade 6-12 teachers to add a Computer Science endorsement to a valid secondary teaching certificate.

# 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. 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. 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.