2017 MODEL K-12 CS LEGISLATION

K-12 computer science education has risen to the forefront of the National education policy agenda -- largely driven by the efforts of state leaders leverage policy to expand student access to rigorous courses, and provide professional development opportunities to ensure a prepared teacher pipeline. The following "model" legislation draws from successful state efforts in Washington State, Arkansas, Idaho, West Virginia, New Jersey, and Utah.

State of XXXX

XXth General Assembly

A Bill

For An Act To Be Entitled

ACT TO REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL TO OFFER A COURSE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE; PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHERS; TO ESTABLISH COMPUTER SCIENCE STANDARDS AND PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE [STATE LEGISLATIVE ENTITY] OF THE STATE OF XXXX:

SECTION 1. State XXXX Code Title X, Chapter X, Subchapter X, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

X-XX-XXX. Computer science — Required course offering.

(a) Beginning in the [DATE] school year, a public high school or public charter high school shall offer at least one (1) computer science course at the high school level.

(b) A computer science course offered by a public high school or public charter high school shall:

    (1) Be of high quality, as defined by the State Board of Education;

    (2) Meet or exceed the curriculum standards and requirements established by the State Board of Education; and

    (3) Be made available in a traditional classroom setting, blended learning environment, online-based, or other technology-based format that is tailored to meet the needs of each participating student.

SECTION 2. COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

(a) The [STATE APPROPRIATIONS ENTITY] shall appropriate funds to eligible entities to develop and implement teacher professional development programs for the required high quality computer science courses, as defined in Section 2.

(b) For the purposes of this Section, eligible entities include:

(1) A local educational agency, or a consortia of local educational agencies, in the state, including charter local educational agencies;

(2) Institutions of higher education in the state, or

(3) Non-profit or private providers of nationally recognized and high quality computer science professional development, as determined by the State Board of Education in coordination with the State Department of Education.

(c) As a condition of receiving the funds, eligible entities must submit an application to the State Department of Education. The application must, at a minimum, address how the entirety will:

(1) Reach new and existing teachers with little CS background;

(2) Utilize effective practices for professional development;

(3) Focus the training on the conceptual foundations of computer science;

(4) Reach and support historically underrepresented students in computer science;

(5) Provide teachers with concrete experience with hand-on, inquiry based practices; and

(6) Accommodate the particular teacher and students needs each district and school.

SECTION 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE STANDARDS.

(a) Prior to the beginning of the [DATE] school year, the State Board of Education and Department of Education shall develop rigorous standards and curriculum guidelines in computer science at the middle and high school levels, and incorporate computer science into existing standards at the elementary level, as appropriate.

--- OPTIONAL ---

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE.
It is found and determined by the [STATE LEGISLATIVE ENTITY] that computer science and technology skills are of vital importance to meet the growing needs of the workforce; that public

school students need opportunities to develop computer science and technology skills in order to be competitive in the future; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure that the Department of Education has the time necessary to develop and modify academic standards for computer science courses before beginning of the [DATE] school year. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on [DATE].