

Rubric for Evaluation of Ten Policy Ideas

This document supplements the state policy ideas outlined in [Making Computer Science Fundamental to K-12 Education](#). On Code.org and the Advocacy Coalition's state pages and state fact sheets (found at www.code.org/promote and www.advocacy.code.org), we provide information about each state's adoption of each of the nine policy ideas for expanding K-12 computer science. The rubrics in this document describe how we determine if a state has adopted each of the policy ideas. In 2020, we developed additional rubrics that extend the adoption of a policy to the adoption of a policy that also includes a focus on equity (these rubrics can be viewed [here](#)).

Policy #1: Does the state have a plan for K-12 computer science?

In order for us to check "yes" for this policy element, the following elements must exist:

- A state education agency has a specific plan focused on computer science,
- That plan includes a timeline, goals, and strategies for achieving the goals, and
- The plan is publicly available.

If a state does not have all of these elements or is working toward a plan, we provide alternative text on our website to reflect work in progress.

Policy #2: Does the state have K-12 computer science standards?

In order for us to check "yes" for this policy element, the standards must:

- Cover elementary, middle, and high school,
- Be publicly accessible on the state website, and
- Include computer science content.

In order for us to describe the state's standards as *rigorous*, the standards must reflect all 5 core concepts and all 7 core practices of the K-12 Computer Science Framework. If a state has K-8 CS standards and a separate set of 9-12 CTE standards, but no comprehensive set of K-12 academic standards, we provide alternate text on our website to reflect this.

Policy #3: Does the state dedicate state-level funding to K-12 computer science professional development?

In order for us to check "yes" for this policy element, the funds must be:

- From the state (not federal),
- Dedicated to K-12 computer science, with an emphasis on professional learning,

- The description of the funds dedicated to computer science must be written down and publicly accessible; and
- The funding must have been allocated during the current or upcoming fiscal year (or if the state has historically adequately funded computer science professional development).

If a state does not have all of these elements but dedicates funds to computer science support other than professional learning, or has a written document (publicly accessible) that encourages the use of state funds for computer science professional development, we provide alternative text on our website to reflect this. For states that have historically met the first three criteria in the rubric but have not yet adequately funded computer science professional development, we provide alternative text to reflect the historic nature of the funding. Each state will be re-evaluated in June/July each year to determine if the funding is current or if the state historically adequately funded computer science professional development.

Policy #4: Does the state have a computer science teacher certification?

In order for us to check “yes” for this policy element, the state must have:

- An endorsement, certification, or licensure that is named “computer science” or has a related name (e.g., computer programming) and enables a teacher to teach computer science courses.

If the state is in the process of developing a teacher certification in computer science (and the process has been publicly announced, and meetings or development have begun with a timeline to completion), we provide alternative text on our website to reflect this.

Policy #5: Does the state have incentives for higher education to offer computer science to preservice teachers?

In order for us to check “yes” for this policy element, the incentives must:

- Focus on preservice teachers,
- Be a state-level initiative (rather than individual programs led by universities), and
- At least one of the four must be met:
 - The state provides scholarships for preservice teachers to take computer science;
 - The state provides funds to teacher preparation institutions to establish computer science education programs (either full pathways or add-on endorsements from a few courses in computer science education);
 - The state approves or creates programs at institutions of higher education to offer computer science to preservice teachers, and lists those programs publicly. The list should specify programs that prepare preservice teachers in computer science; or

- The state requires all pre-service teachers (from any subject) be exposed to CS content and/or pedagogy within a teacher's pre-service program.

Policy #6: Does the state have a dedicated computer science education position?

In order for us to check "yes" for this policy element, the position must be:

- A state employee,
- With a title reflecting that this position focuses on computer science,
- Who is clearly able to develop state policy, create programs around computer science, recommend and guide the development of state regulations and legislation, and/or be a decision maker about computer science implementation including more than one of the following: professional learning, standards development, course identification/course coding, teacher certification, CTE pathways and integration with curriculum and instruction.

If the state has a systematic network of local computer science education leaders across the state, a designated state board member focused on computer science, a state employee focused on computer science initiatives without this reflected in their title, or similar, we provide alternative text on our website to reflect this.

Policy #7: Does the state require all high schools to offer computer science?

In order for us to check "yes" for this policy element, the requirement from the state must:

- Apply to all high schools in the state, and
- Be written down and publicly accessible.

If the state has a written document and timeline to work towards all high schools offering computer science, we provide alternative text on our website to reflect this.

Policy #8: Does the state allow computer science to satisfy a core high school graduation requirement?

In order for us to check "yes" for this policy element, the state policy must:

- Allow computer science to satisfy a core graduation requirement (not an elective) for a subject such as math, science, tech credit, or language other than English, and
- Be written down and publicly accessible.

If the state has passed policy that is permissive and encouraging, but it is not a requirement for schools to allow computer science to satisfy a core graduation requirement, we provide alternative text on our website to reflect this.

Policy #9: Does the state allow computer science to satisfy a core admission requirement at institutions of higher education?

In order for us to check “yes” for this policy element, the policy must:

- Allow computer science to satisfy one of the required credits for entry (not an elective), and
- Be written down and publicly accessible.

If the state has passed policy that is permissive and encouraging, but it is not a requirement for institutions of higher education to allow computer science to satisfy a core admission requirement, or if all institutions of higher education in the state recommend that all students take computer science in high school, we provide alternative text on our website to reflect this.

Policy #10: Does the state require all students to take computer science to earn a high school diploma?

In order for us to check “yes” for this policy element, the policy must:

- A policy that requires all students to earn a credit named “computer science” or has a related name that includes “computer science” to receive a standard diploma for high school graduation,
- A list of courses or standards that satisfy the requirement, all of which must include computer science topics and standards; this list must be available before the graduation requirement goes into effect, and
- The policy is written down and publicly accessible.