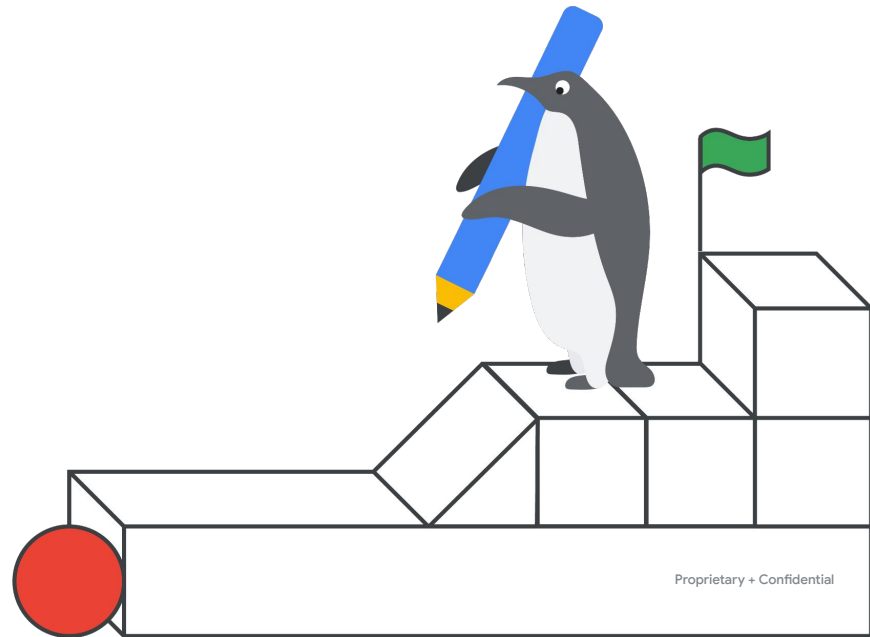


2024 CS First Back to School Toolkit



Welcome, Educators!



Are you looking for ways to energize your classroom this back-to-school season? Then this toolkit is for you.

This toolkit aims to highlight the power of computer science education and align educators with key resources to kickstart learning in fun, fresh ways and provide students with new opportunities in STEM.

Let's get started!

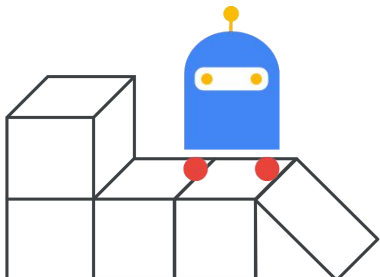


Table of Contents

Inside, you'll find:

[Why CS First](#): No prior coding experience? No problem! Our resources make it easy to incorporate computer science into your existing curriculum.

[What's New with CS First](#): We are so excited to introduce our revamped curriculum and newest coding lesson.

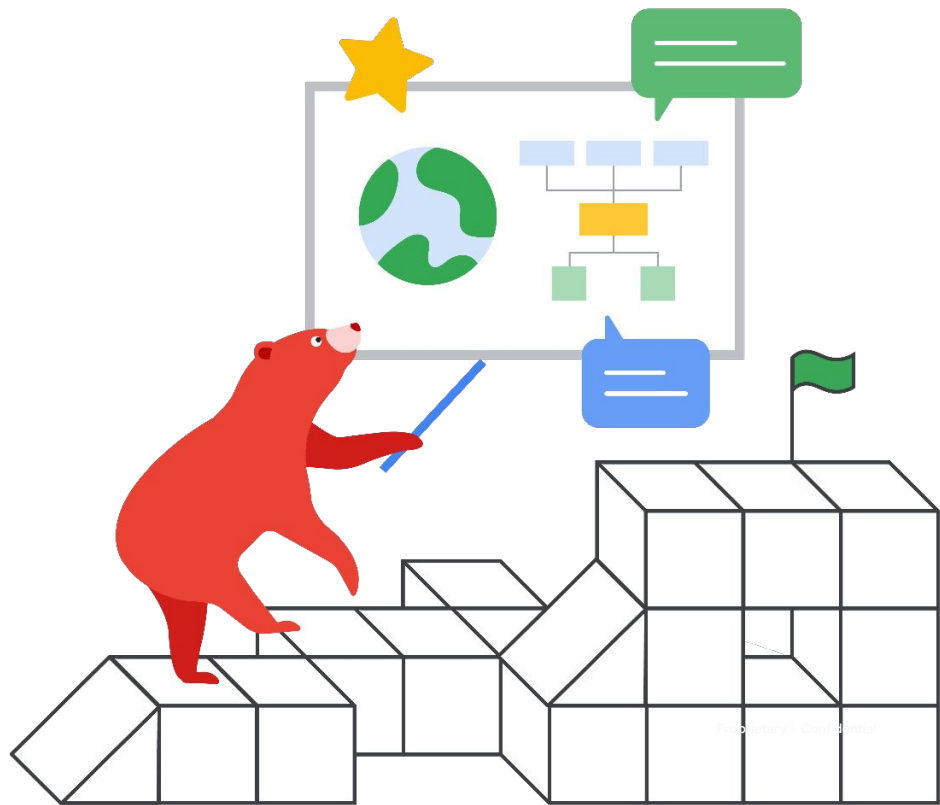
[Professional Development Opportunities](#): Deepen your CS knowledge and impress your colleagues with proven teaching strategies.

[Our Approach To AI](#)

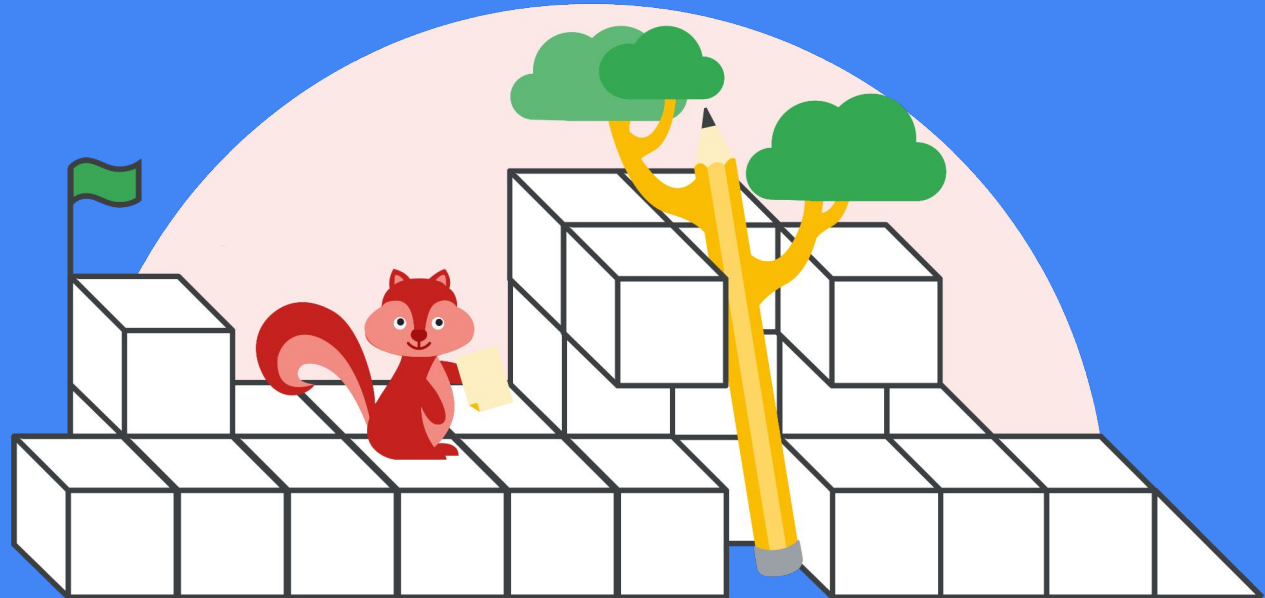
[Success Stories](#): Hear how CS First has helped fellow educators

[Ways to Spread The Word](#): Share CS First resources with fellow educators and be the first to update them on our new resources right in time for the school year.

Get ready to elevate your classroom!



About CS First

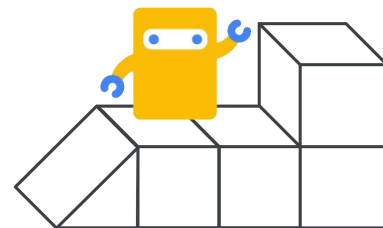
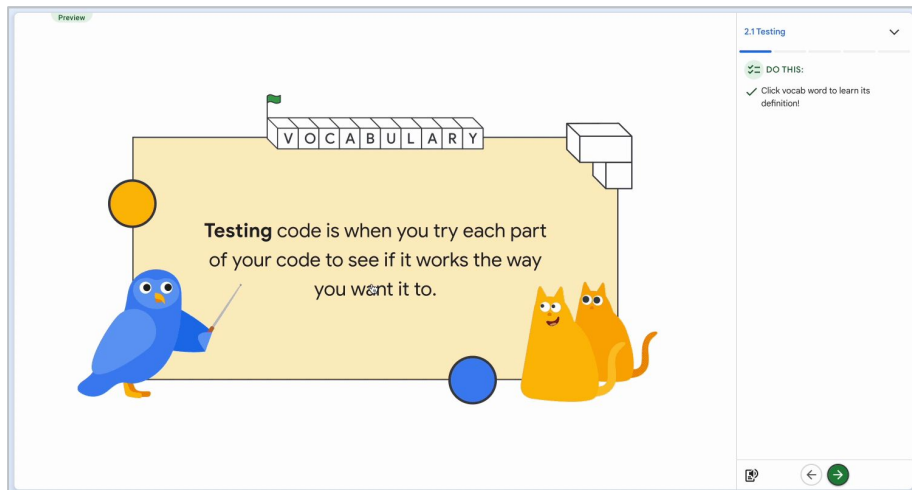


What is CS First

CS First makes coding fun and accessible for kids in grades 4-8 (ages 9-14). This free program uses Scratch, a block-based coding language, so students can learn by doing, without without yet worrying about complex syntax rules.

Here's what makes CS First awesome:

- **Engaging Activities:** Choose from a variety of exciting projects that cover different themes such as game design, storytelling, and art.
- **Easy-to-Use:** No prior coding experience is needed! Students can jump right in with clear video tutorials and drag-and-drop coding blocks.
- **Builds Skills:** CS First goes beyond just coding. Students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity — essential skills for any future pursuits!



Addressing teachers' needs

Based on a [2023 evaluation](#) about the presence of computer science lessons in general education, we found that:



44% of teachers find CS integration beneficial to their students

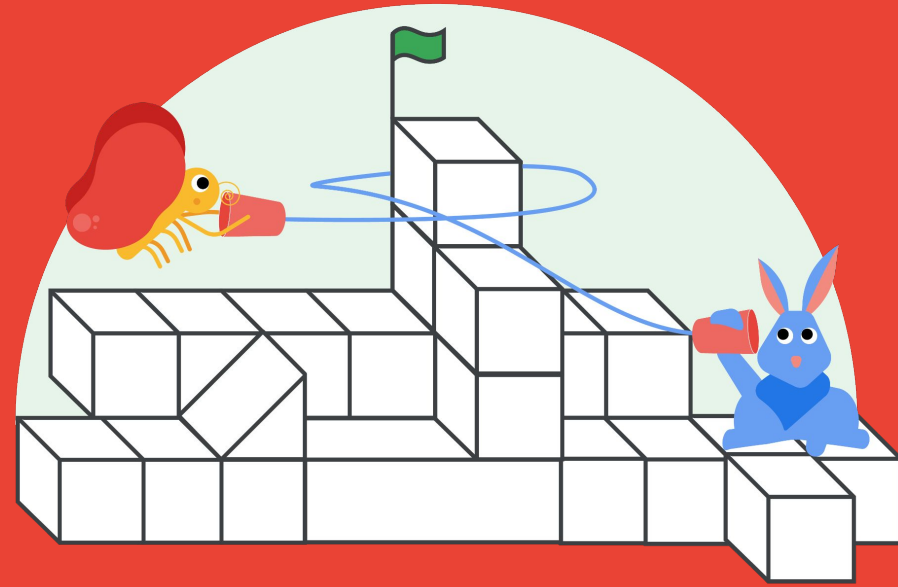


72% of teachers want to increase access to CS



72% of teachers want to use CS to teach concepts in other subjects (math, science, english etc)

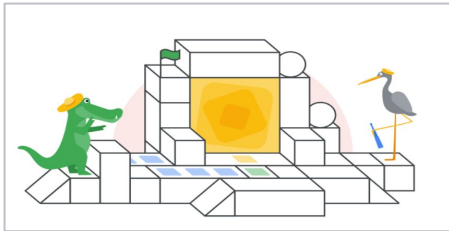
What's New with CS First



What's new with CS First

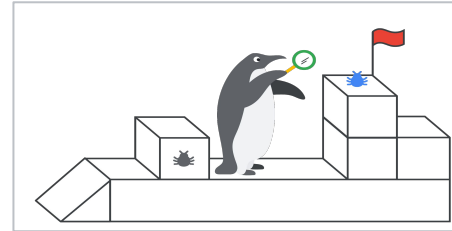
We're bringing a **new in-editor tool** with an updated layout to students! In addition to being able to share lesson feedback, students will have access to **lesson hints**, **text-to-speech instructions**, and more as they learn computer science at their own pace. This tool also allows educators to **customize instruction based on varying needs** of each student, driving understanding of foundational coding elements.

Finally, updates to our **"Welcome to CS First" lesson** & a preview of our brand new **"Debugging" lesson** are ready to be implemented in a classroom near you! Learn more:



Improved Welcome to CS First Lesson: We've updated our basic introduction with step-by-step validation and feedback to give students more guidance. This new feature empowers teachers to tailor instructions based on each student's needs.

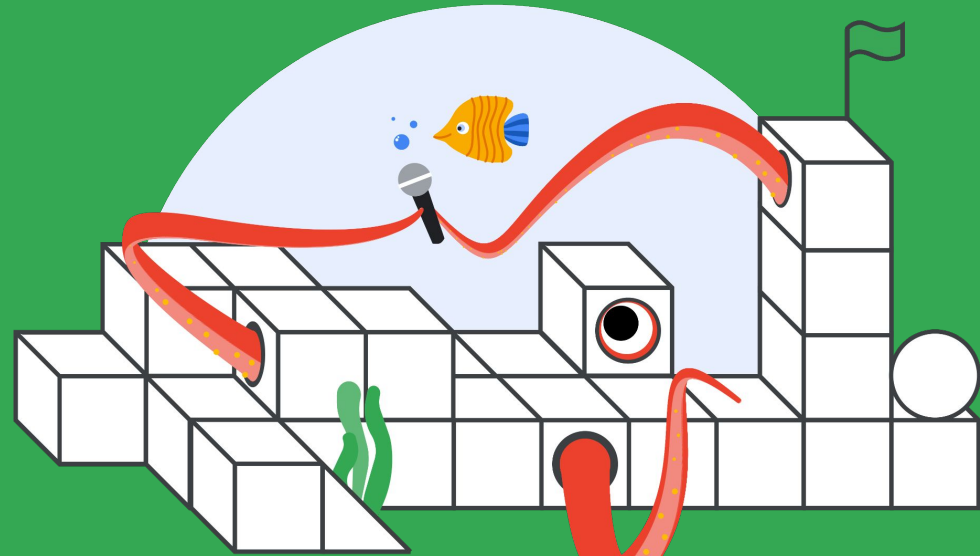
- [Try this lesson!](#) (available August 1st)



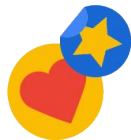
Debugging (currently in Beta): This lesson focuses on the topic of debugging which is an important component of computational thinking and problem solving. This unit also includes step-by-step validation to help students get through the course.

- [Try a preview of this lesson!](#)
- Share your thoughts via this [survey](#)

Skills for the Future



Skills for the Future



As AI technology advances, we know your priority is to prepare your students for any future.

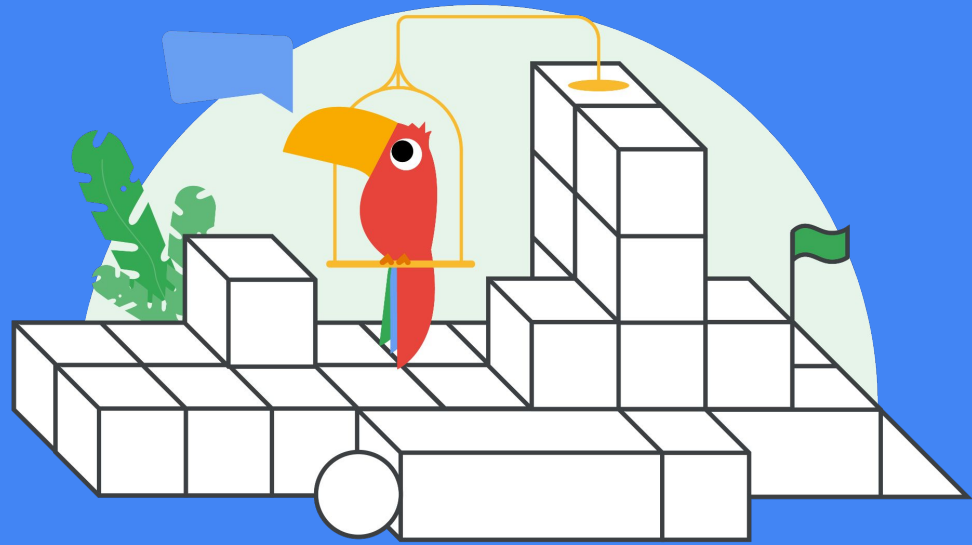
To do so, students must first develop their computational thinking, problem solving and critical thinking skills. Students with these skills are better equipped to understand the complexities of new technologies like AI.

CS First enables students to hone these skills.

If you're interested to learn more about AI resources, check out [Discover AI in Daily Life](#) and [Generative AI for Educators](#).



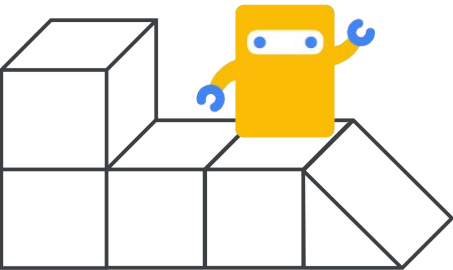
Teacher Stories



Nick Shuman

For Nick, CS First has become an essential tool for his 5th and 6th grade classes. He's been able to seamlessly integrate coding exercises into his existing curriculum which helps maximize learning within a limited time. Beyond coding, it's given his students a way to bring out their unique interests.

One of his students discovered her passion for coding through her love of storytelling. "So you take those little successes that you then try to capitalize on...trying to find that hook for every student, regardless of what went on at home, or the challenges they face."

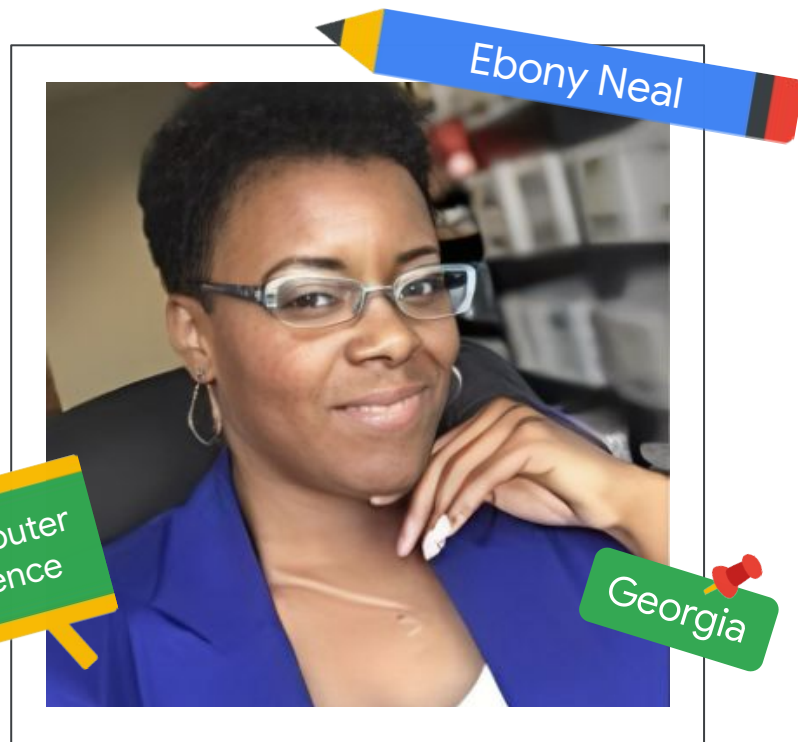
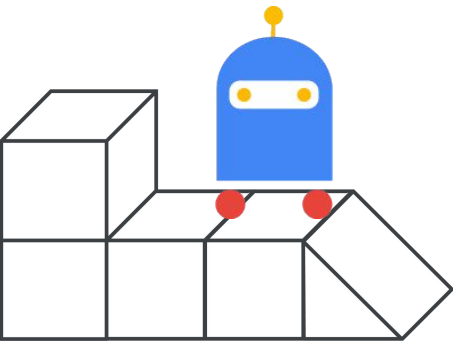


Ebony Neal

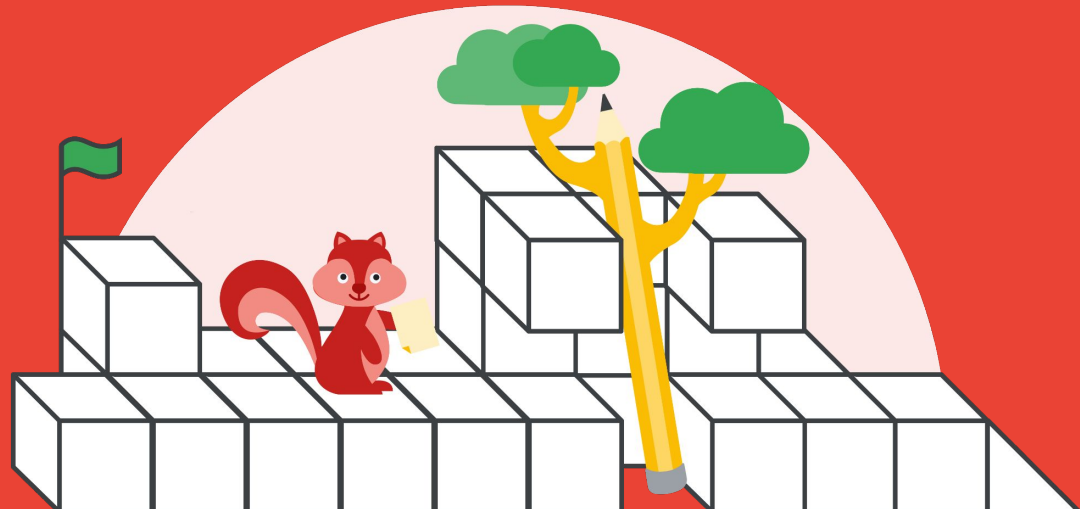
Ebony's goal? Introduce 4th - 8th-grade students to computer science. The solution? CS First lessons.

With the "Code Your Hero" activity, Ebony motivated students to create interactive stories highlighting powerful women through coding. Through this adapted lesson, students advanced their storytelling capabilities while simultaneously developing computer science skills that can better prepare them for various career paths.

By combining coding with storytelling, students can easily pair their interests with elements of computer science to better understand coding and have fun as they learn. Educators like Ebony are able to find creative ways to embrace technology with their students using CS First.



Spread the Word



Spread the Word!

The following slides will help you create a social media post about the latest updates from CS First. We've included sample text you can use as-is or modify, visual assets, and links to include in your posts to drive audiences to CS First's pages.



Debugging

Opt 1: Hey, CS educators! Check out #CSFirst's new Debugging unit! 🐛 This lesson provides students with an overview of debugging strategies to find & fix technical issues in coding projects. Let's get started:

<https://goo.gle/461sVdG>

Opt 2: CS educators, make sure to check out the NEW Debugging unit! This lesson incorporates a new layout for student feedback & validation that enables teachers to easily differentiate instruction 😊 Preview the lesson here 👉

<https://goo.gle/461sVdG>

CS First

Introduce students to
debugging skills and
strategies with code



Link to download visual asset [here](#).

Enhance Student Learning

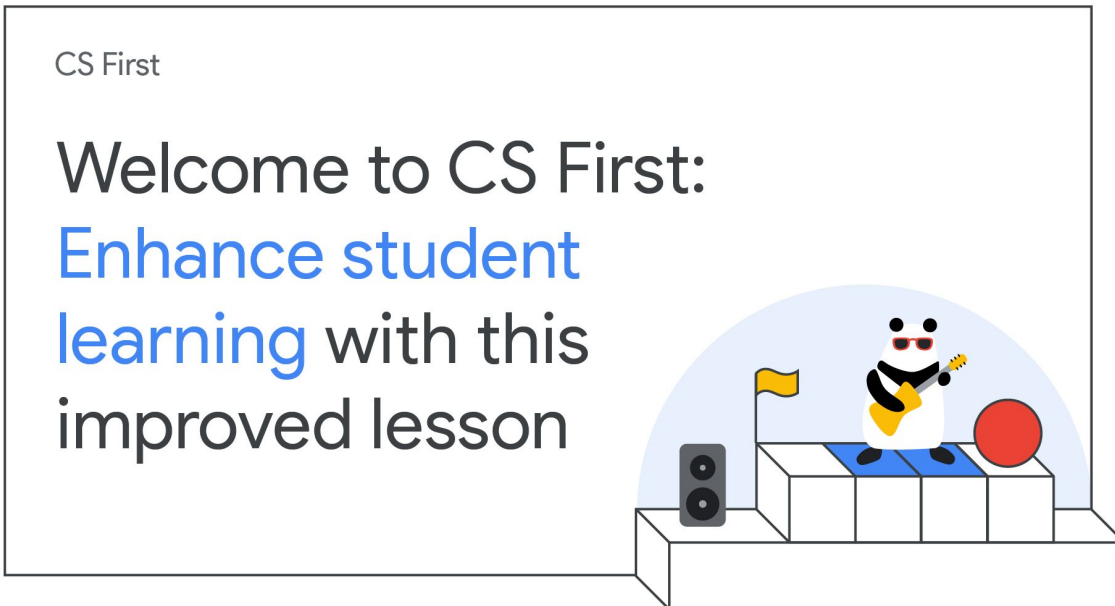
Opt 1:

Do you want to know a secret? 🙈

#CSFirst updated their introductory "Welcome to CS First" lesson to include enhanced features of student validation and feedback. Get ready for a new school year and bring coding resources to students: <https://goo.gle/wtcsf>

OPT 2:

#BacktoSchool is right around the corner! Level up your students' learning with the revamped "Welcome to #CSFirst" lesson! Student validation & feedback is now built-in for smoother coding adventures 🙌 Can't wait to try it in my classroom! <https://goo.gle/wtcsf>



Link to download visual asset [here](#).

Computer Science

Social Copy:

The ideal #BackToSchool checklist?

- ✓ Textbooks
- ✓ Backpacks
- ✓ #CSFirst Lessons

Open up more opportunities for your students this school year by adding #CSed to your lesson plans. Perfect for any subject and no experience needed:

<https://goo.gle/wtcsf>



Link to download visual asset [here](#).

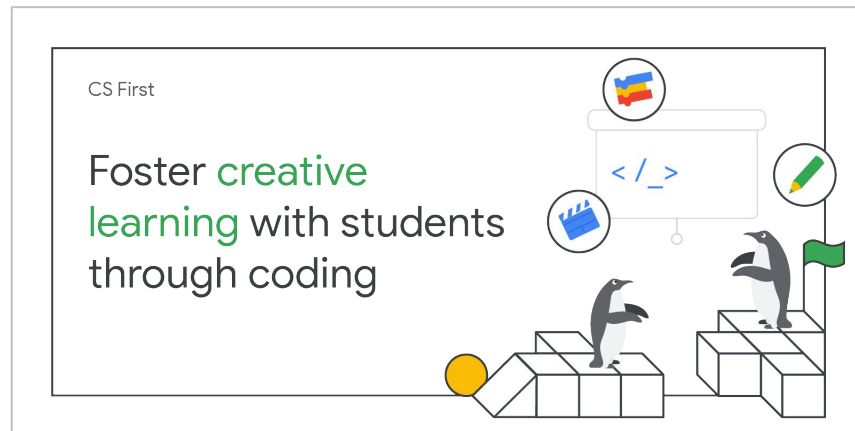
Email Templates

Teachers: Use [this link](#) to access an email template made custom for your network.

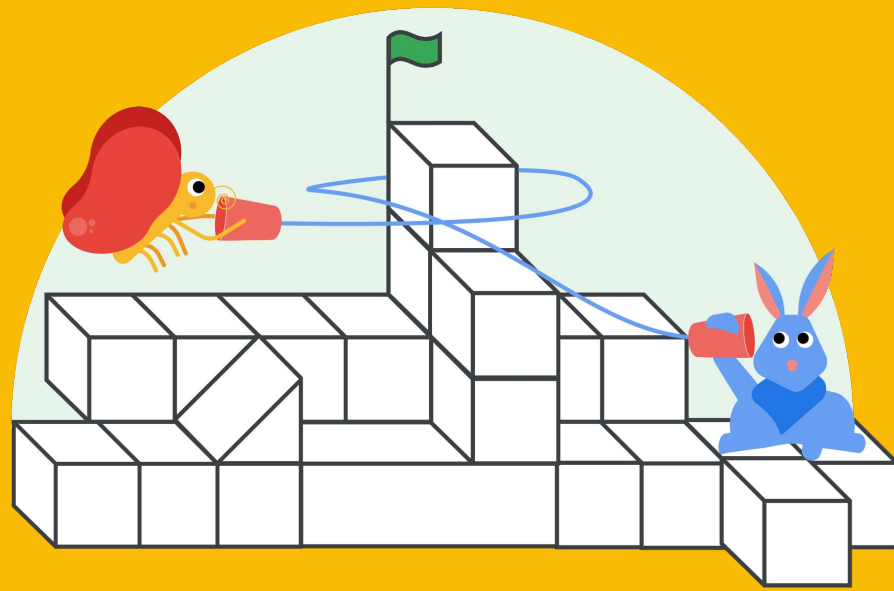
[Email header here](#)

District leaders: Use [this link](#) to access the email template custom for your audiences.

[Email header here](#)



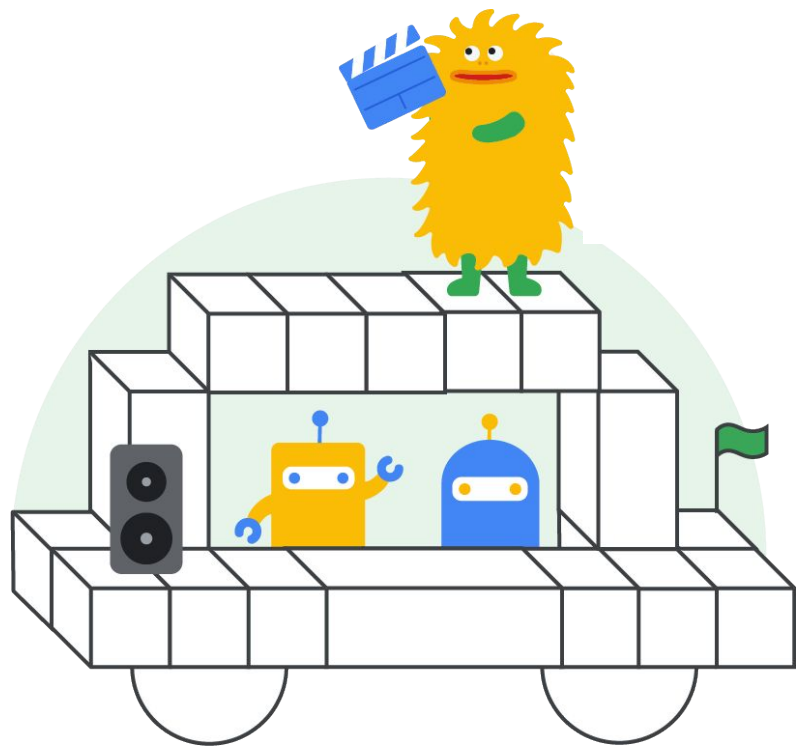
Resources & Guides



Resources and Guides

Check out these upcoming sessions and resources:

- [CS First training sessions](#): These webinars from Five Star will cover how to use CS First and focus on specific CS First projects. Participants will learn how to implement them in the classroom while integrating existing subjects they teach.
- [Getting Started video series](#): This series provides step-by-step instructions on how to set up your CS First account and begin using it with your students.
- [Additional support](#): For any questions or help on how to introduce foundational CS First lessons into your classroom, explore our Help Center!



Thank you!

