



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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KENTUCKY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN WORLDWIDE EVENT IN SUPPORT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Thousands of Kentucky students will get experience in computer coding starting today during Computer Science Education Week. Governor Steve Beshear proclaimed December 8-14 as a week to highlight the importance of computer science education and its path to careers in computing and other fields.

As part of the effort, students, teachers, parents and policymakers are encouraged to participate in an Hour of Code, a worldwide, hands-on experience in learning to write computer code.

More than 400 Kentucky schools, businesses and organizations have signed up to [participate](#). Organizers hope that 100 million students worldwide will take part in an Hour of Code before the end of the year. More than 15 million students participated during 2013.

“The Hour of Code can help demystify computer programming,” Commissioner Terry Holliday said. “It helps nurture creativity and problem-solving skills, and prepares students for future careers.”

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts one in every two Science, Technology, Engineering and Math ([STEM jobs](#)) in the country will be in computing occupations, with more than 150,000 job openings annually making it one of the fastest growing occupations in the United States. The industries requiring computing professionals is diverse – two-thirds of computing jobs are in sectors other than information technology, including manufacturing, defense, health care, finance, and government.

No experience is needed to participate in the Hour of Code. Students can choose from self-guided tutorials that work on any modern browser, tablet or cellphone and may take part even if they don't have a computer.

Earlier this year, [Code.org](#), a national, non-profit organization, which is sponsoring the Hour of Code, recognized Kentucky for its “progressive state policy to make computer science count” as a core graduation requirement.

(more)

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Kentucky Department of Education guidance states that based on course standards and the teacher of record, a computer science course can qualify as a 4th mathematics course or an elective science course if it involves computational thinking, problem solving, computer programming, and a significant emphasis on the science and engineering practices from the Kentucky Core Academic Standards.

For example, a student who takes and passes [AP Computer Science](#), which teaches computer programming and software development, may count it as one of the mathematics credits required for graduation as defined by [Kentucky's minimum high school graduation requirements](#).

Efforts to promote computer science education are catching on in Kentucky. In addition to AP Computer Science, several schools offer [coding classes](#) – either as part of regular course offerings or as an extracurricular activity.

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