The State of Computer Science Teacher Certification in K-12 in the United States

The ACM Model Curriculum for K-12 recommends (NCATE) standards for secondary computer science (equivalent to a CS minor)

CSTA Teacher Certification Survey Results 2006

see http://csta.acm.org for the detailed responses

25 states have some sort of requirements, 20 do not, and 6 states did not respond. The states that did not respond are: Arkansas, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Mississippi, and Oklahoma.

Alaska: Educational Technology endorsement. Any certified teacher can teach computer science.

District of Columbia: Computer Literacy endorsement which is not required at the high school level. Any certified teacher can teach high school computer science.

Florida: Computer Science Endorsement. But, teachers are not required to have it. Any certified teacher can teach computer science.

Indiana: Educational Technology endorsement (ISTE standards for educational computing). Teachers with a business endorsement can teach computer science.

Kentucky: Computer Science Endorsement. Teachers can teach Computer and Technology Applications, Web Design, Programming and AP. Math teachers can also teach computer science.

Louisiana: Secondary Computer Science Endorsement. Requires 21 credit hours in the content area. Teachers can teach programming, applications, and technology.

Maine: Computer Literacy Endorsement. Courses can be taught by Business Certified teachers.

Maryland: Computer Science Endorsement. Requires bachelors degree or 36 hours of content coursework.

Michigan: Computer Science Endorsement. Requires 12 credit hours of computer science. Teachers can teach programming, applications, and technology.

Minnesota: Computer Literacy Endorsement. Teachers with a Business Certificate can teach high school computer science.

Montana: Computer Science Endorsement. The number of credit hours wasn’t specified.

Nebraska: Information Technology Endorsement. Any certified teacher can teach computer science.

Nevada: Computer Science Endorsement. Requires 16 credit hours of computer science course work. Technology and Business teachers can also teach computer science.

New Hampshire: Information Technology Endorsement. Technology teachers can also teach computer science.


North Dakota: Computer Literacy Endorsement.

Ohio: Computer Literacy Endorsement.

South Dakota: Computer Literacy Endorsement. Technology coordinator can teach computer science.

Texas: Computer Science Certification. Requirements are equivalent to a computer science minor.

Utah: Computer Science Certification. Requirements are equivalent to a computer science minor.

Vermont: Computer Literacy Endorsement. Educational technology teachers can teach computer science.

Virginia: Computer Science Endorsement. Requires at least 18 credit hours of course work.

West Virginia: Computer Literacy Endorsement. Any certified teacher can teach computer science.


Wyoming: Information Technology Endorsement. Requires programming content but doesn't specify the number of credit hours.

Number of States with Actual Computer Science Requirements: 11
Number of States with Information Technology Requirements: 3
Number of States that require some type of CS or IT certification for high school: 10

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