AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A MANDATORY K-12 COMPUTER
SCIENCE CURRICULUM WHICH INCLUDES INSTRUCTION IN COMPUTER CODING;
TO PRESCRIBE MINIMUM COMPONENTS OF THE CURRICULUM; TO PROVIDE FOR
TEACHER TRAINING; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. (1) The State Department of Education is
authorized and directed to develop and implement a mandatory K-12
computer science curriculum which includes instruction in computer
coding to be phased in, in all public schools beginning with the
2018-2019 school year, as provided in this section.

(2) Public schools shall provide students in Grades K-12
opportunities for learning computer science, including, but not
limited to, computer coding and computer programming. Such
opportunities may include coding instruction in elementary school
and middle school, instruction to develop students' computer usage
and digital literacy skills in middle school, and courses in
computer science, computer coding, and computer programming in
high school, including earning-related industry certifications.
(3) Elementary schools and middle schools may establish digital classrooms in which students are provided opportunities to improve digital literacy and competency; to learn digital skills, such as coding, multiple media presentation, and the manipulation of multiple digital graphic images; and to earn digital tool certificates and certifications and grade-appropriate, technology-related industry certifications.

(4) High schools may provide students opportunities to take computer science courses to satisfy high school graduation requirements, including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) High school computer science courses of sufficient rigor, as identified by the State Department of Education, such that one (1) credit in computer science and the earning of related industry certifications constitute the equivalent of up to one (1) of the mathematics requirement, with the exception of Algebra I or higher-level mathematics, or up to one (1) credit of the science requirement, with the exception of Biology I or higher-level science, for high school graduation. Computer science courses and technology-related industry certifications may be identified as eligible for meeting mathematics or science requirements for high school graduation.

(b) High school computer technology courses in 3D rapid prototype printing of sufficient rigor, as identified by the State Department of Education, such that one or more credits in such courses and related industry certifications earned may satisfy up
to two (2) credits of mathematics required for high school
graduation with the exception of Algebra I. Computer technology
courses in 3D rapid prototype printing and related industry
certifications may be identified as eligible for meeting
mathematics requirements for high school graduation.

(5) The State Department of Education shall provide annual
training for teachers and administrators in order to phase in the
K-12 Computer Science Curriculum beginning in the 2018-2019 school
year. The State Department of Education may contract with private
and nonprofit providers for teacher training and for student
instruction, and is encouraged to utilize available cost-free
computer coding training and instruction. Teachers may receive
computer coding training online.

(6) The State Board of Education is authorized to promulgate
rules and regulations to implement the K-12 computer science
curriculum established in this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after July 1, 2018.