

By: Representatives Zuber, Stamps

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 818

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-205, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
 2 TO AUTHORIZE CERTIFIED OR CLASSIFIED STAFF TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTION  
 3 IN COMPUTER SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO AMEND SECTION  
 4 37-13-207, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ENCOURAGE SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
 5 TO DESIGNATE A CENTRAL LOCATION FOR THE DELIVERY OF INSTRUCTION  
 6 AND COURSES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR ALL STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT;  
 7 TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-211, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DESIGNATE  
 8 CERTIFIED OR CLASSIFIED STAFF AS ADDITIONAL SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WHO  
 9 ARE TO BE PROVIDED ANNUAL TRAINING IN THE COMPUTER SCIENCE  
 10 CURRICULUM; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 37-13-213, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
 11 OF 1972, WHICH REQUIRES THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE  
 12 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TO WORK WITH THE INSTITUTIONS OF  
 13 HIGHER LEARNING TO IDENTIFY TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS LEADING  
 14 TO CERTIFICATION IN THE COMPUTER SCIENCE FIELD, FOR PURPOSES OF  
 15 POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

17 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-13-205, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 18 amended as follows:

19 37-13-205. As used in Sections 37-13-201 through 37-13-213,  
 20 the following terms shall have the meaning ascribed in this  
 21 section:

22 (a) "Computer science" means the study of computers,  
 23 algorithmic processes, coding, and logical thinking, including



24 computer principles, their hardware and software designs, their  
25 implementation and their impact on society.

26 (b) "Computer science courses" means high school and  
27 middle school courses that teach computer science as stand-alone  
28 implementations; and elementary curriculum that provides  
29 instruction in computer science as stand-alone implementations or  
30 embedded in other subjects and focuses on how to create and  
31 understand technology, rather than simply using technology.

32 (c) "Offer" means providing instruction at the  
33 elementary level with licensed teachers or certified or classified  
34 staff, and at the high school and middle school level as a course  
35 taught by a computer science teacher or certified or classified  
36 staff:

37 (i) Who is onsite at the physical location of the  
38 school; or

39 (ii) Who is not onsite at the physical location of  
40 the school but conducts the course through virtual means with a  
41 proctor onsite at the physical location of the school.

42 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-13-207, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
43 amended as follows:

44 37-13-207. (1) The State Department of Education is  
45 authorized and directed to implement a K-12 computer science  
46 curriculum based on the 2018 Mississippi College and  
47 Career-Readiness Standards for computer science, which includes  
48 instruction in, but not limited to:



- 49           (a) Computational thinking;  
50           (b) Problem solving;  
51           (c) Programming;  
52           (d) Cyber security;  
53           (e) Data science;  
54           (f) Robotics;  
55           (g) Artificial intelligence and machine learning; and  
56           (h) Other computer science and cyber-related content.

57           (2) The State Department of Education shall work with the  
58 Center for Cyber Education at Mississippi State University to  
59 identify and develop the K-12 computer science curriculum and  
60 delivery options.

61           (3) Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year:

62           (a) Each local school district shall provide that all  
63 middle schools in its school system offer instruction in  
64 foundations of computer science;

65           (b) Each local school district shall provide that fifty  
66 percent (50%) of elementary schools in its school system offer a  
67 minimum of one (1) hour of instruction in computer science each  
68 week;

69           (c) Each charter school that serves middle or high  
70 school students shall offer a course in computer science; and

71           (d) Each charter school that serves elementary school  
72 students shall offer instruction in computer science.

73           (4) Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year:



74 (a) Each local school district shall provide that at  
75 least fifty percent (50%) of the high schools in its school system  
76 offer a course in computer science;

77 (b) Each local school district shall provide that all  
78 elementary schools in its school system offer a minimum of one (1)  
79 hour of instruction in exploratory computer science each week.

80 (5) Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, each local  
81 school district shall provide that all schools in its school  
82 system offer instruction in computer science.

83 (6) Each local school district is encouraged, to the extent  
84 possible, to designate a central location within the school  
85 district which may be used to provide the courses and instruction  
86 required under this section to all students at all grade levels in  
87 the district.

88 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-13-211, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
89 amended as follows:

90 37-13-211. (1) Subject to appropriations made by the  
91 Legislature, the State Department of Education shall provide  
92 annual training for teachers, counselors \* \* \*, administrators and  
93 other certified or classified staff in order to phase in the K-12  
94 computer science curriculum. Preference should be given to  
95 districts who have the fewest number of teachers or staff trained  
96 in computer science. The State Department of Education shall work  
97 with the Center for Cyber Education at Mississippi State  
98 University to develop and coordinate \* \* \* the training. The



99 State Department of Education may contract with private and  
100 nonprofit providers for \* \* \* educator training and for student  
101 instruction, and is encouraged to utilize available cost-free  
102 computer training, instruction and resources. Teachers and other  
103 certified and classified staff may receive computer science  
104 instruction training through an online platform.

105 (2) The State Department of Education shall provide a report  
106 by January 1, 2022, to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the  
107 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the  
108 Senate Education Committee and the Chairman of the House Education  
109 Committee. The report shall include a strategic plan for  
110 statewide computer science education initiatives including, but  
111 not limited to, the following:

112 (i) A summary of the current state landscape for  
113 K-12 computer science education;

114 (ii) A plan for expanding computer science  
115 education opportunities to every school in the state by the  
116 2024-2025 school year;

117 (iii) A plan for the development of preservice and  
118 in-service teachers seeking a computer science endorsement or  
119 course specific license, in order to meet the timeline for course  
120 requirements;

121 (iv) The development of a vetted list of approved  
122 vendors in computer science education that are recognized as high



123 quality computer science courses or instruction, which should  
124 weigh preference on cost and ease of implementation; and  
125 (v) The identification of approved computer  
126 science courses that may fulfill at least four (4) units of  
127 academic credit for high school graduation. The State Department  
128 of Education shall work with the Board of Trustees of State  
129 Institutions of Higher Learning and the Mississippi Community  
130 College Board to approve these courses once identified.

131 ( \* \* \*3) The State Department of Education shall submit a  
132 report by December 31 of each year through 2025 to the Governor,  
133 the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of  
134 Representatives, the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee  
135 and the Chairman of the House Education Committee. The report  
136 shall include a list of schools in each district teaching computer  
137 science and the number of computer science teachers and certified  
138 or classified staff who are trained in each district.

139 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-13-213, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
140 brought forward as follows:

141 37-13-213. The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of  
142 Higher Learning shall work with its member institutions to  
143 identify preservice teacher preparation programs to allow for  
144 certification in the computer science field.

145 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
146 and after July 1, 2022.

