

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1162 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY BROWN, PENNYCUICK, BREWSTER AND VOGEL,
APRIL 22, 2024

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, APRIL 22, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,
6 providing for computer science education; and abrogating a
7 regulation.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
11 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
12 section to read:

13 Section 1529. Computer Science Education.--(a) The
14 Department of Education shall develop a State strategic plan for
15 a Statewide computer science education program and present the
16 plan to the State Board of Education no later than July 1, 2026.

17 The following shall apply:

18 (1) The plan shall include at least the following:

19 (i) A statement of purpose that describes the objectives or
20 goals the board will accomplish by implementing a computer

1 science education program, the strategies by which those goals
2 will be achieved and a timeline for achieving those goals.

3 (ii) A summary of the current State landscape for
4 kindergarten through grade twelve computer science education,
5 including demographic reporting of students taking these
6 courses.

7 (iii) A plan for expanding computer science education
8 opportunities to every school in this Commonwealth within five
9 (5) years and increasing the representation of students from
10 traditionally underserved groups in computer science, including
11 female students, students from historically underrepresented
12 racial and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, English-
13 language learner students, low-income students and rural
14 students.

15 (iv) A plan for the development of rigorous standards and
16 curriculum guidelines for kindergarten through grade twelve
17 computer science, including ways to incorporate computer science
18 into existing standards at the elementary level.

19 (v) A plan for defining high-quality professional learning
20 for teachers to begin teaching computer science.

21 (vi) An ongoing evaluation process that is overseen by the
22 State Board of Education.

23 (vii) Proposed rules that incorporate the principles of the
24 master plan into this Commonwealth's public education system as
25 a whole.

26 (viii) A plan to ensure long-term sustainability.

27 (2) Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, and continuing
28 in each school year thereafter, each public high school shall
29 offer at least one computer science course.

30 (b) A computer science course or instruction in computer

1 science offered by a public school or public charter school

2 shall:

3 (1) Be of high quality, as defined by the State Board of
4 Education.

5 (2) Meet or exceed the standards and curriculum requirements
6 established by the State Board of Education.

7 (3) Permit a student to apply up to one credit earned for
8 successful completion of the course to satisfy a mathematics or
9 science credit requirement for graduation if the governing body
10 of the student's high school has discretion to determine the
11 graduation credit requirement to which the credit earned will
12 apply.

13 Section 2. The provisions of 22 Pa. Code § 57.31 are
14 abrogated insofar as they are inconsistent with the addition of
15 section 1529 of the act.

16 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.