



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Chris Reykdal Old Capitol Building · PO BOX 47200 · Olympia, WA 98504-7200 · <http://www.k12.wa.us>

February 14, 2018

() Action Required

Due date: April 2, 2018

(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 007-18 LEARNING AND TEACHING

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
School District Career and Technical Education Directors
School Principals
Computer Science Teachers

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Computer Science Education 2018–19 Competitive Grant Opportunity

CONTACT: Shannon Thissen, Computer Science Program Supervisor
shannon.thissen@k12.wa.us, 360-725-6092

BACKGROUND

The 2017 Washington State Legislature allocated \$1,000,000 of the general fund in Fiscal Year 2018 and \$1,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2019 for computer science education ([ESSB 5883](#), Sec. 501, 35). These funds are designated for:

- (1) Teacher training and credentialing in computer science
- (2) Technology upgrades needed to learn computer science
- (3) Engaging students in computer science

GRANT ELIGIBILITY AND EXPECTATIONS

Any school district, building, or Educational Service District may apply for any grade(s) K–12. Funds for the computer science education competitive grant may be expended only to the extent that they are equally matched by private sources for the program, including gifts, grants, endowments, and in-kind services which can be quantified. All grant activities must align to Washington State Computer Science K–12 Learning Standards and the designations listed above. We anticipate that most grant applicants will request between \$5,000 and \$50,000. Larger requests will be considered if their scope, likely impact, and matching resources are commensurate with the request and/or impact multiple districts.

Applicants are encouraged to submit applications that support innovative ways to introduce students to computer science and engage historically underrepresented groups, including girls, low-income students, and minority students to inspire them to enter computer science careers.

Recipients of 2017–18 Computer Science Education grants are eligible for continued project funding in 2018–19. A narrative of the outcomes and deliverables from 2017–18 grants should indicate that an extension of the project is beneficial for 2018–19 as evidenced by project metrics, continued dedicated matching private funds, resource availability, and demonstrated sustainability of the project.

READINESS TO BENEFIT

Applicants who can demonstrate readiness and ability to effectively employ and expend grant funds **completely** prior to the end of June 30, 2019, should apply for fiscal year 2018–19 dollars. Readiness to benefit may be indicated by active computer science programs or a detailed plan expressing the ability to expend funds upon receipt.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CRITERIA

All proposals should be grounded in Washington’s Computer Science K–12 Learning Standards (<http://www.k12.wa.us/ComputerScience/default.aspx>).

Applicants:

- Must have a private source match documented in writing (e.g., by a letter of support) in order to be considered for grant funding
- Must align proposals to Washington State Computer Science K–12 Learning Standards, to the extent possible
- Must demonstrate readiness to utilize grant funds
- May apply for all three purposes of the proviso appropriation or any combination
- Should include underserved student populations, including students with disabilities in their proposals

POTENTIAL PRIVATE MATCHING OPPORTUNITY: TECHSTART VIRTUAL REALITY INTEGRATION

OSPI entered a partnership with TechStart, a national Facebook initiative that provides underrepresented students access to computer science and virtual reality education as a way to generate interest in computer science careers. Under the partnership, TechStart would offer to each eligible school a private match of approximately \$5,400 that comes in the form of the following: one kit (computer, camera, [Oculus Rift](#) equipment (3-D headset)), curriculum support, and professional development for educators.

Eligible schools must have a 60 percent or greater percentage of students receiving free or reduced-price lunch, including alternative schools, tribal and tribal compact schools, and skill

centers, would be eligible to take advantage of this match. Interested applicants are encouraged to leverage the matching funds to provide students with authentic and enriching computer science learning opportunities.

This private matching fund opportunity would be optional for participating applicants; it is not a required component of the application. Participating applicants would be expected to enter into individual agreements with Facebook prior to receiving equipment and support from TechStart.

GRANT AMOUNTS

Grant awards will take into consideration the proposal plan, narrative, standards integration, partnerships, and sustainability.

GRANT TIMELINE

Application opens in iGrants	February 15, 2018
Application closes	April 2, 2018 (5 p.m.)
Award notifications	May 1, 2018
Last day to expend grant funds	June 30, 2019

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Public or private schools
- Tribal compact or tribal schools
- School districts
- Skill centers
- Educational Service Districts (ESDs)
- Non-profit organizations in partnership with a school district, school, or ESD
- Institutions of higher education in partnership with a school district, school, or ESD
(NOTE: Institutions of higher education may apply independently to train and credential teachers in computer science without a district, school, or ESD partner)

Multiple parties may apply under one proposal. However, one organization must be the lead applicant and serve as the fiscal agent for the project. Only lead organizations (fiscal agents) may submit applications. Partner organizations need not apply independently from the lead organization.

BULLETIN NO. 007-18 L&T

Page 4

February 14, 2018

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions related to computer science grants, contact Shannon Thissen, Computer Science Program Supervisor, at 360-725-6092 or shannon.thissen@k12.wa.us.

For questions related to Career and Technical Education (CTE), contact Lance Wrzesinski, Business and Marketing Program Supervisor, at 360-725-6258 or lance.wrzesinski@k12.wa.us.

The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the OSPI website at <http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2018.aspx>.

Michaela W. Miller, Ed.D., NBCT
Deputy Superintendent

Kathe Taylor, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Learning and Teaching

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Attachment: Computer Science Request for Proposal Application Guidelines

OSPI provides equal access to all programs and services without discrimination based on sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Questions and complaints of alleged discrimination should be directed to the Equity and Civil Rights Director at 360-725-6162/TTY: 360-664-3631; or P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200; or equity@k12.wa.us.