THE 2023 MINNESOTA COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT ACT
HF 759 and SF 757
Section-by-Section

Subdivision 1: Definitions
Defines "Computer Science", "Computer Science Courses and Content", "High-quality computer science educator training", and "High-quality computer science professional learning providers".

Subdivision 2: Computer Science Education Funding
Establishes the Minnesota Computer Science Education Advancement Fund and authorizes an annual appropriation of no less than $4,000,000 beginning Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, which can be used for expenses related to the the implementation of this legislation and the development, advancement, and promotion of K-12 computer science (CS) education in Minnesota and is approved by the Minnesota Commissioner of Education.

Subdivision 3: Computer Science Education Advisory Committee
- Establishes a position within the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) dedicated to supervising CS education and the computer science education state strategic plan.
- Requires MDE to establish a CS education advisory committee to develop a state strategic plan for long-term and sustained growth of CS education in all Minnesota K-12 public schools and public charter schools and describes the members of the advisory committee.
- Describes the state strategic plan that must be published for public feedback and provided to appropriate committee chairs. Plan components include the following:
  - A description of how the state will support the expansion of CS education opportunities in every school in the state within 5 years, with a focus on ensuring equitable access;
  - Recommendations for long-term expansion and sustainability of CS education, including requiring that every Minnesota public school and public charter school employ at least one certified or endorsed computer science teacher, creating a timeline for a high school graduation requirement, developing standalone CS standards, training pre-service teachers in CS education, and identifying high-quality professional learning providers;
  - A description of any existing gaps in access to and participation in CS education and how to equitably address these gaps.
- Allows MDE to update and change the state strategic plan as necessary and requires MDE to inform the committees of jurisdiction of all changes to the plan.

Subdivision 4: Computer Science Education Training
- Authorizes MDE to implement or sub-contract the development and implementation of high-quality, coordinated teacher recruitment and educator training programs for CS courses and content.
- Allows funds to be used for a variety of activities including high-quality professional learning opportunities for K-12 CS content, travel expenses for teachers attending training, future credentialing, and professional learning.
- Establishes application requirements for grants or subcontractors providing CS educator training, criteria for prioritization of awards, and reporting requirements for subcontractors.

Subdivision 5: Making Computer Science Count
Requires MDE to develop a graduation policy that allows students to meet their math, science, or elective graduation requirements with a CS course.

Subdivision 6: Incentives for Teacher Preparation
Requires that teacher preparation programs leading to professional certifications include grade-level and subject area appropriate instruction in CS.

Provides funds to the Minnesota Office of Higher Education to ensure and support eligible pre-service education programs in the state develop and implement pathways in CS education.

Subdivision 7: Data Collection System and Mandated Reporting
Requires MDE to develop a plan to allow for the secure and automatic reporting of data and information from all Minnesota public schools and public charter schools, which will include enrollment data on CS courses.

Subdivision 8: Promulgation of Rules and Regulations
Allows MDE and the Professional Educator Standards and Licensing Board to adopt rules to administer this Act.

Allocation of funds for the Minnesota Computer Science Education Advancement Fund

July 1, 2023 (FY 2024)

Dec 31, 2023

MDE publishes State Strategic Plan for public feedback.

MDE publishes updated graduation policy

MDE publishes data collection plan for public feedback

State Strategic Plan and DOE data collection plan are presented to the Chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees

Feb. 28, 2024

School Year 2024-2025

Data collection plan is implemented

Graduation policy is implemented

Teacher Preparation Programs will have computer science included in their curriculums

July 1, 2027