

Friday, March 22, 2024

TO: Minnesota Senate Education Finance Committee

RE: Letter of Support for SF 4259

Dear Members of the Senate Education Finance Committee,

As members of the Computer Science Working group, we write this letter **in support of SF 4259**, the Minnesota Computer Science Education Advancement Program. Please note that this letter does *not* formally represent support from any of the organizations we are employed at or involved in. It represents our personal opinions.

During last year's state legislative session, the Computer Science Education Advancement Program (Statute 120B.241) was established. In accordance with this legislation, the Minnesota Department of Education organized the Computer Science Education Working Group. This group was charged with developing a state strategic plan for long-term and sustained growth of computer science education in all kindergarten through grade 12 school districts and charter schools.

From October 2023 – March 2024, our 22-person working group developed a state strategic plan that makes 10 recommendations to set the foundation for a robust and sustainable approach to computer science education in Minnesota.

Funding to support the recommendations in our final plan is critical to support shifting Minnesota from #lasttofirst in the country. We urge you to support SF 4259.

Sincerely,

Members of the Computer Science Education Working Group (2023-2024)

Katherine Anthony-Wigle
Steve Buchanan
Alexandra Holter
Greg Larson
Sheri Levasseur
Jennifer Rosato
Cassie Scharber
Tabitha Senty