



March 25th, 2024

Subject: Support for SF 4259 - Enhancing Computer Science Education in Minnesota

Dear Members of the Senate Education Finance Committee,

We, the leadership team of the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) Minnesota Chapter, are writing to express our strong support for Senate File 4259, which aims to significantly enhance and expand computer science education across the state. As an organization dedicated to championing equitable and identity-inclusive computer science education, we believe that SF 4259 aligns perfectly with our mission to ensure every individual has access to high-quality computer science learning opportunities.

SF 4259 proposes a comprehensive approach to bolster computer science education by establishing the Computer Science Education Advancement Program. This initiative focuses on crucial areas such as educator training, capacity building, and the development of high-quality computer science programs. Proposed funding in this legislation demonstrates a significant investment in our state's future, promising to address the urgent need for a diverse and well-prepared technology workforce.

We are particularly supportive of the bill's emphasis on equitable access to computer science education. By prioritizing applications from consortiums working in partnership with providers of high-quality professional learning and focusing on increasing enrollment among underrepresented groups, SF 4259 takes meaningful steps toward breaking down barriers to access and participation in computer science education.

In conclusion, we believe that SF 4259 is a vital step forward in our shared goal of making computer science education accessible, equitable, and inclusive for all students in Minnesota. Together, we can prepare our students for the opportunities and challenges of the future, ensuring they have the skills and knowledge to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

We encourage you to support SF 4259 and look forward to the positive impacts this legislation will have on computer science education in our state.

Sincerely,

Chapter Leadership

Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA)- Minnesota Chapter

Dr. Alexandra Holter, CSTA Co-President

Kate Lockwood, CSTA Co-President

Paul Schonfeld, CSTA Secretary