



March 26, 2024

TO: Minnesota Senate Education Finance Committee

RE: Letter of Support for SF 4259

Dear Chair Kunesh and Members of the Senate Education Finance Committee:

Thank you for allowing Code.org and CSforALL-MN to submit a joint letter of support for SF 4259, which provides much-needed funding for computer science education to build teacher capacity and course offerings in Minnesota. Dedicated state funding is one of the most impactful ways states can expand students' access to this foundational subject, and we know Minnesota's need for this is great.

Computer science is an essential skill for K-12 students. It develops their computational and critical thinking skills and teaches them how to create—not just use—new technologies. Computing occupations are the fastest-growing, best paying, and now the largest sector of all new wages in the United States. In Minnesota in particular, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that there are over **7,384 open computing jobs with an average salary of \$105,311**. Every student deserves the opportunity to access the knowledge necessary to succeed in the most in-demand jobs of our 21st century economy.

Unfortunately, only [28% of Minnesota public high schools](#) offer even one foundational computer science course. This is the **lowest percentage of all states in the country**. But state funding, which is [directly correlated with higher levels of course offerings](#), can help change that. Based on [CSforAll-MN estimates](#), it costs about \$2,250<sup>1</sup> per teacher to provide initial computer science educator professional development in Minnesota. Thus, a \$4 million investment could reach ~1,777 teachers. If the goal is to have at least one teacher in each school qualified to teach computer science, this number covers more than half of the approximately 2,344 total teachers who would need initial training.

There is significant support for computer science education from business and state leadership. Eleven CEOs of Minnesota-based industries have signed on to the [Computer Science: Opportunity for Every Student \(CEOsForCS\)](#) letter which is a call “for every student in every school to have the opportunity to learn computer science.” And in July of 2022, Governor Tim Walz [committed](#) to expanding K-12 Computer Science Education in the state of Minnesota as part of a pact with all 50 state Governors, including **a specific commitment to allocate state funding for computer science**.

It is worth noting computer science offers additional benefits for students who take it. [Studies have shown](#) that students who study computer science perform better in other subjects and excel at problem solving. Further, students who take AP computer science are at least [17% more likely to attend college](#), making CS education a critical tool in helping Minnesota reach its MNP20 state postsecondary attainment goal.

Once again, our two organizations strongly support this critical investment in computer science education in Minnesota and urge passage of SF 4259. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Julia Wynn**

Director of State Government Affairs, Code.org  
[Julia.Wynn@Code.org](mailto:Julia.Wynn@Code.org)

**Jennifer Rosato**

Member of the Steering Committee, CSforALL-MN  
[jrosato@umn.edu](mailto:jrosato@umn.edu)

---

<sup>1</sup> Assumes a teacher stipend of \$1K for a weeklong professional development opportunity, travel stipend (housing + meals), and payments to facilitators/PD providers.