The Impact of Funding for Computer Science

Funding for computer science education, particularly teacher professional development, is one of the most impactful ways to increase student access to the subject. Not only is computer science increasingly necessary for students to succeed in a 21st century economy, but its application of critical thinking skills, creative problem-solving, programming, and more teaches students the general technology and thinking skills they need to be well-rounded contributors to our society. As the state with **the lowest percentage of high schools offering computer science in the country**, Minnesota is in dire need of state investment in this space. Based on the below data, the proposed funding in HF 3492/SF 4259 will have a strong, concrete impact on student access to computer science in Minnesota.

State funding is **directly correlated with higher levels of course availability.** Based on 2023 data, states that allocated funding annually to computer science had an average of 65% of their high schools offering the course, greater than the average of 57% of high schools in states without dedicated funding, and much higher than Minnesota's 28%.

Estimated Impact in Minnesota
Based on CSforAll-MN estimates, it costs about $2,250* per teacher to provide initial computer science educator professional development in Minnesota. Thus, a $4 million investment could reach ~1,777 teachers. To have at least one computer science teacher in every school in the state, about 2,344 teachers would need to be trained.

$4 million → ~ 1,777 teachers

*This covers **more than half** of the 2,344 total teachers who need training.*

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

Case Study: Colorado (impact of FY 21-22 state funding invested)

$399,543 → 373 teachers trained | 47,736 students impacted | 24 additional courses offered

Case Study: Iowa (impact of FY21-FY24 state funding invested)

~ $1.2 million → 1,165 teachers trained