

March 26, 2024

To Minnesota Legislators:

As computer science faculty at Minnesota colleges and universities, we are writing today in support of the Computer Science Education Advancement bills, [HF 3492](#) and [SF 4259](#). In order to implement the Computer Science Working Group's plan, it is essential to allocate additional funding to move Minnesota from last to first in CS Education.

Every K-12 student in Minnesota should have access to computer science (CS) education because computer science impacts almost every facet of our daily lives. Understanding what CS concepts like algorithms and artificial intelligence are and how they impact our daily lives is necessary to be an informed citizen in the 21st century. Computer science also drives innovation in many areas important to our local economies, from agriculture to healthcare to retail to tourism.

It is important that Minnesota invests in CS education for K-12 students and schools. The students who have exposure to CS before college are more likely to major in computing related fields. However, it is often students with privilege who have had the opportunity to take a CS course, participate in a robotics program, or have a parent or family member encourage them to pursue a career in CS. Adding CS in K-12 schools will increase the number of students aware of computing before college, helping us diversify our programs and the future technologists in our state.

Our college computer science graduates have access to well-paying job opportunities in Minnesota and beyond. Graduates of our programs are in demand and successful in securing job offers. All students in Minnesota should have access before college to the opportunity to learn computer science so they can be engaged citizens and make informed decisions about college and career pathways in computing.

Sincerely,  
Minnesota Higher Education Computer Science Faculty

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