



Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota (ITEM)

March 25, 2024

Dear Esteemed Senators and Representatives;

As members of ITEM, Information & Technology Educators of Minnesota, we write this letter in support of **HF3492 / SF4259**, the Minnesota Computer Science Education Advancement Program. Please note that this letter does not formally represent support from any of the school districts we are employed at or involved in. It represents our personal opinions as involved members of ITEM and as a profession of Library Media Specialist and/or Tech Educator.

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 mindful in recognizing that licensed library media specialists are essential in carrying out their proposed plan for long-term and sustained growth of computer science education in all kindergarten through grade 12 school districts and charter schools. It specifically states that our licenses already and will continue to permit us to teach foundational CS skills now and in the future, whereas two new CS-specific licenses recommended in this plan will take several years to roll out. This is a good thing for licensed library media specialists and the staff and students we support.

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 HF3492 / SF4259.

Sincerely,

The Executive Board
Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota
President@mnitem.org