

APPROVAL FOR TEACHING COMPUTER SCIENCE (ACS)

As the importance of computer science skills continues to rise, there is an increased demand for computer science education at all levels, including primary and secondary schools.



Given the recognized shortage of certified computer science teachers, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) offers the Approval for Teaching Computer Science (ACS). Teachers of grades 9-12 may earn the ACS by completing the [Code.org](https://code.org) Professional Learning Program for either (AP®) Computer Science Principles or AP® Computer Science A as provided by AdvanceKentucky.



**The AdvanceKentucky®
Professional Learning
Program**

Computer Science Principles (can be taught as an AP® course) is an introductory course that requires no computer science background (from students or teachers). We recommend it for 9th-12th grade students with stronger reading and writing skills. More than a traditional introduction to programming, it is a rigorous, engaging, and approachable course that explores many of the foundational ideas of computing. Hence, all students understand how these concepts are transforming the world we live in.

AP® Computer Science A introduces students to software engineering and object-oriented design while learning the Java programming language and is recommended for any high school student who wishes to continue their computer science education after completing an introductory course such as Computer Discoveries or Computer Science Principles. The curriculum prepares students for the AP® Computer Science A (AP CSA) exam while developing skills used in the field.

AT A GLANCE

- The ACS is a portable (district-to-district) teacher permission code that permits teachers with any existing high school certification to teach ALL Computer Science courses in the course catalog.
- The Professional Learning Program is a year-long commitment consisting of a five-day summer institute plus follow-up academic year workshops.
- Most Kentucky teachers qualify for scholarships that cover the program costs. The cost for those who do not qualify for scholarships is \$1500.
- Applications for the Professional Learning Program open in January. Interested teachers should visit code.org/apply to complete the application.



We believe that computer science should be offered in every school in Kentucky, grades K-12. We develop partnerships to create and manage professional development solutions for teachers at every level.

For more information contact:

Monique Rice
Program Director, CS Initiatives
mrice@kstc.com