

Computer Science Equity Grant FY 2027 Notice of Funding Opportunities

**Technical Assistance Webinar
July 15, 2026**

Agenda:

- Background
- Purpose
- Eligible Applicants
- Criteria for Review and Approval
- Grant Information
- Contact Information

Summary provided for informational purposes; refer to posted [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for full language.

Background

The Computer Science Equity Grant is a Renewed Competitive Grant

- The Computer Science Equity Grant is a competitive grant that was created by [Public Act 103-0264](#). It was renewed and appropriated for FY27.
- Funding for two consecutive renewals subject to appropriations (total of 3 years).
- Grant period January 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027

Program Objectives

Program Objectives of the Computer Science Equity Grant

Support the development or enhancement of computer science programs in K-12 schools

Program Objectives

Grant funds awarded may be used only to:

- Expand learning opportunities in Grades K-12 to ensure that all students have access to computer science coursework that is aligned to rigorous state standards and emerging labor market needs.
- Train and retrain teachers of Grades K-12 to be more proficient in the teaching of computer science by providing professional development opportunities.
- More effectively recruit and better serve K-12 learners who are underrepresented in the computer science labor market for enrollment in computer science coursework
- Supply classrooms with materials and equipment related to the teaching and learning of computer science.
- Fund initiatives in any grades of K-8 that are designed specifically to prepare students in those grades to participate successfully in secondary computer science coursework or future computer science careers.

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Eligible Applicants

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- a) Entities that are eligible to apply for a grant under the Program are regional offices of education, intermediate service centers, State higher education institutions, schools designated as laboratory schools, and school districts.
- b) Approved entities shall be responsible for ensuring that appropriate facilities are available and educators are appropriately trained on the use of any technologies or devices acquired for the purposes of the grant, or that a plan is in place for such training (see Section 2-3.196(a) of the School Code).
- c) Joint applications may be submitted if all entities in the joint application are eligible entities under this Section.



Criteria for Review and Approval

Need

Capacity

Quality

Sustainability

Cost
Effectiveness

Detailed Criteria for Review and Approval

Need

- Identification of stakeholders, facts, and evidence that demonstrate the proposal supports the grant program purpose

Capacity

- The ability of an entity to execute the grant project according to the project requirements

Quality

- The totality of features and characteristics of a service, project, or product that indicate its ability to satisfy the requirements of the grant program

Sustainability

- Evidence provided in the form of additional funding and other resource streams that will support the program after the grant funding concludes

Cost Effectiveness (Budget), Impact, Evaluation

- Overall impact and evaluation in the use of grant funds (expenditures) towards resources aimed at supporting and sustaining the program over time and alignment and impact of those expenditures with the goals of the grant program

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Priority Points

- Majority of learners with gender or racial/ethnic identities that are underrepresented in the computer science labor market. (See Section 2- 3.196(d) of the School Code)
- School or districts that does not currently offer any computer science coursework and is able to accommodate 12.5% or less of the high school student body in the program for a given school year.
- School or district that does not currently offer computer science coursework that is accessible and appropriate for students at each grade level for Grades 9-12.
- School or district that does not currently offer advanced coursework opportunities for computer science.



Performance Standards

Performance Standards

- No more than 80% of grant funds may be used to purchase materials and equipment.
- Support sustainability of computer science programming through advanced professional learning models, including coaching, leadership development, or train-the-trainer approaches. Professional learning must be conducted outside of the contractual school day to be an allowable reimbursable expense.
- Funds for materials or equipment related to the teaching and learning of computer science may be used only when the applicant demonstrates that educators are appropriately trained on the use of any technologies or devices acquired for the purposes of the grant or that a plan is in place to provide training, consistent with Sections 700.20(b).
- Recruitment demonstrates progress of K-12 students who are underrepresented in the computer science labor market.

Performance Measures

Performance Measures

- One hundred percent of all planned Computer Science Equity Grant funds are being used to expand learning opportunities in Grades K-12 to ensure that all students have access to computer science coursework that is aligned to rigorous state standards and emerging labor market needs.
- One hundred percent of funds used for professional learning to train and retrain teachers of Grades K-12 will be used to make teachers more proficient in computer science.
- One hundred percent of funds used to supply classrooms with materials and equipment are related to the teaching and learning of computer science.
- One hundred percent of funds used to recruit K-12 students focuses on learners who are underrepresented in the computer science labor market.



Deliverables and Milestones

Summary of key changes and plans for fiscal year

Deliverables and Milestones

In addition to expenditure and grant compliance reporting, this grant requires:

- Mid-year report no later than December 31 of each year to ISBE, full details will be sent closer to due date*
- End of the year report submitted electronically by August 31 within IWAS Surveys

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* As the first year of the cycle will start after this date, there will be a checkbox to reflect as such: “funds have not yet been disbursed, so midyear reporting data is not yet available.”

Detailed Deliverables and Milestones

Mid-Year AND End-of-Year

- Summary of progress toward accomplishing each program objective with supporting data or data representations to include an assessment of program quality and recommendations for improvement and sustainability.
- Summary of program impact and recommendations based on data for future programming and engagement of K-12 students in computer science education.
- As the first year of the cycle will start after this date, there will be a checkbox to reflect as such: “funds have not yet been disbursed, so midyear reporting data is not yet available.”

Only End-of-Year

- Consideration of the importance of program sustainability and details of how computer science learning will continue after the grant concludes.
- Program review of effectiveness to include data points that measure the success of programming and student growth in computer science learning.

Next Steps

Submission of Proposals

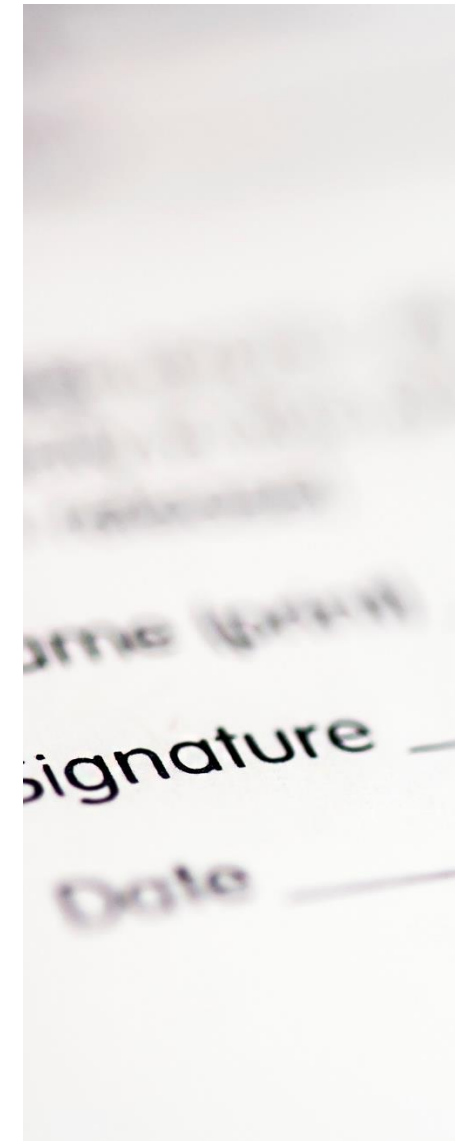
Proposal Review Tentative Timeline

Submission of Proposals

- Completed Proposals should be scanned into a single PDF with all supporting documents and required signatures and submitted via email to:

standards@isbe.net

- Deadline: 8/3/26 at 5 p.m.
- No late proposals will be accepted



Proposal Review Tentative Timeline

- Application deadline: August 3, 2026, by 5 p.m.
- Curability: Notification of missing components by COB August 15, 2026.
- Applicants will have 24 hours to make corrections if notified of curability issues
- Reviews will tentatively start: August 14 , 2026
- Tentative Award Notice: September 15 , 2026
- Appeal Period: September 15, 2026 - September 19, 2026
- Final Award Notice: September 20, 2026

Questions

Please send any questions to standards@isbe.net

Answers will be posted in an FAQ document at

[Funding Opportunities](#)

Contact Information

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