



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Chris Reykdal Old Capitol Building · PO BOX 47200 · Olympia, WA 98504-7200 · <http://www.k12.wa.us>

August 28, 2017

Action Required

Due date: October 16, 2017

Informational

BULLETIN NO. 061-17 LEARNING AND TEACHING

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
School District Career and Technical Education Directors
School Principals
Computer Science Teachers

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Computer Science Education Competitive Grant Opportunity

CONTACT: Shannon Thissen, Computer Science Program Supervisor
shannon.thissen@k12.wa.us, 360-725-6092

BACKGROUND

The 2017 Washington State Legislature allocated \$1,000,000 of the general fund in Fiscal Year 2018 and \$1,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2019 for computer science education ([ESSB 5883](#), Sec. 501, 35). These funds are designated for:

- (1) Teacher training and credentialing in computer science
- (2) Technology upgrades needed to learn computer science
- (3) Engaging students in computer science

GRANT ELIGIBILITY AND EXPECTATIONS

Any school district, building, or Educational Service District may apply for any grade(s) K–12. Funds for the computer science education competitive grant may be expended only to the extent that they are equally matched by private sources for the program, including gifts, grants, endowments, and in-kind services which can be quantified. All grant activities must align to Washington State Computer Science K–12 Learning Standards and the designations listed above. We anticipate that most grant applicants will request between \$5,000 and \$50,000. Larger requests will be considered if their scope, likely impact, and matching resources are commensurate with the request and/or impact multiple districts.

Applicants are encouraged to submit applications that “support innovative ways to introduce and engage students from historically underrepresented groups, including girls, low-income students, and minority students to computer science and to inspire them to enter computer science careers.” ([ESSB 5883](#), Sec. 501, 35). Grant applicants will have the opportunity to apply for the continuation of projects in 2018–19, if there is evidence of a successful initial implementation during 2017–18.

READINESS TO BENEFIT

Applicants who can demonstrate readiness and ability to effectively employ and expend grant funds **completely** prior to the end of June 30, 2018, should apply for fiscal year 2017–18 dollars. Readiness to benefit may be indicated by active computer science programs or a detailed plan expressing the ability to expend funds upon receipt.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CRITERIA

All proposals should be grounded in Washington’s Computer Science K–12 Learning Standards (<http://www.k12.wa.us/ComputerScience/default.aspx>).

Applicants:

- Must have a private source match documented in writing (e.g., by a letter of support) in order to be considered for grant funding.
- Must align proposals to Washington State Computer Science K–12 Learning Standards, to the extent possible.
- Must demonstrate readiness to utilize grant funds.
- May apply for all three purposes of the proviso appropriation or any combination.
- Should include underserved student populations, including students with disabilities in their proposals.

POTENTIAL PRIVATE MATCHING OPPORTUNITY: TECHSTART VIRTUAL REALITY INTEGRATION

OSPI is exploring a partnership with TechStart, a national Facebook initiative that provides underrepresented students access to computer science and virtual reality education as a way to generate interest in computer science careers. Under the partnership, TechStart would offer to each eligible school a private match of approximately \$5,200 that comes in the form of the following: one kit (computer, camera, [Oculus Rift](#) equipment (3-D headset)), curriculum support, and professional development for educators.

When this partnership is finalized, school buildings with a 60 percent or greater percentage of students receiving free or reduced-price lunch, including alternative schools, tribal and tribal compact schools, and skill centers, would be eligible to take advantage of this match. Interested applicants are encouraged to leverage the matching funds to provide students with authentic and enriching computer science learning opportunities.

This private matching fund opportunity would be optional for participating applicants; it is not a required component of the application. Participating applicants would be expected to enter into individual agreements with Facebook prior to receiving equipment and support from TechStart.

GRANT AMOUNTS

Grant awards will take into consideration the proposal plan, narrative, standards integration, partnerships, and sustainability.

GRANT TIMELINE

Application opens in iGrants	August 28, 2017
Application closes	October 16, 2017 (4 p.m.)
Award notifications	October 31, 2017
Last day to expend grant funds	June 30, 2018

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Public or private schools
- Tribal compact or tribal schools
- School districts
- Skill centers
- Educational Service Districts (ESDs)
- Non-profit organizations in partnership with a school district, school, or ESD
- Institutions of higher education in partnership with a school district, school, or ESD
(NOTE: Institutions of higher education may apply independently to train and credential teachers in computer science without a district, school, or ESD partner)

Multiple parties may apply under one proposal. However, one organization must be the lead applicant and serve as the fiscal agent for the project. Only lead organizations (fiscal agents) may submit applications. Partner organizations need not apply independently from the lead organization.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions related to computer science grants, contact Shannon Thissen, Computer Science Program Supervisor, at 360-725-6092 or shannon.thissen@k12.wa.us.

For questions related to Career and Technical Education (CTE), contact Lance Wrzesinski, Business and Marketing Program Supervisor, at 360-725-6258 or lance.wrzesinski@k12.wa.us.

The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

BULLETIN NO. 061-17 L&T

Page 4

August 28, 2017

This bulletin is also available on the OSPI website at
<http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2017.aspx>.

Michaela W. Miller, Ed.D., NBCT
Deputy Superintendent

Kathe Taylor, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Learning and Teaching

CR:ST

Attachment: Computer Science Request for Proposal Application Guidelines

OSPI provides equal access to all programs and services without discrimination based on sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Questions and complaints of alleged discrimination should be directed to the Equity and Civil Rights Director at 360-725-6162/TTY: 360-664-3631; or P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200; or equity@k12.wa.us.