

SENATE FILE NO. SF0029

Education-computer science and computational thinking.

Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; adding computer science and  
2 computational thinking to the state educational program;  
3 eliminating keyboarding from the state educational program;  
4 providing that computer science courses may satisfy certain  
5 high school graduation requirements and certain Hathaway  
6 scholarship requirements; providing a date by which the  
7 state board of education must adopt uniform content and  
8 performance standards for computer science; requiring a  
9 report; repealing an obsolete provision; providing  
10 applicability; and providing for effective dates.

11

12 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

13

14 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-2-304(a)(iii)(C), 21-9-101(b)(i)  
15 by creating a new subparagraph (O) and (iii)(C) and  
16 21-16-1307(b)(i)(D) and (d)(i)(D) are amended to read:

1

2           **21-2-304. Duties of the state board of education.**

3

4           (a) The state board of education shall:

5

6                   (iii) By rule and regulation and in consultation  
7 and coordination with local school districts, prescribe  
8 uniform student content and performance standards for the  
9 common core of knowledge and the common core of skills  
10 specified under W.S. 21-9-101(b), and promulgate uniform  
11 standards for programs addressing the special needs of  
12 student populations specified under W.S. 21-9-101(c) that  
13 ensure these student populations are provided the  
14 opportunity to learn the common core of knowledge and  
15 skills as prescribed by the uniform student content and  
16 performance standards pursuant to this paragraph. Student  
17 content and performance standards prescribed under this  
18 paragraph shall include standards for graduation from any  
19 high school within any school district of this state. The  
20 ability to prescribe content and performance standards  
21 shall not be construed to give the state board of education  
22 the authority to prescribe textbooks or curriculum which  
23 the state board is hereby forbidden to do. Graduation

1 standards imposed under this paragraph shall require the  
2 successful completion of the following components, as  
3 evidenced by passing grades or by the successful  
4 performance on competency-based equivalency examinations:

5

6 (C) Three (3) school years of science. One  
7 (1) school year of computer science shall satisfy one (1)  
8 year of this three (3) year requirement; and

9

10 **21-9-101. Educational programs for schools;**  
11 **standards; core of knowledge and skills; special needs**  
12 **programs; class size requirements; cocurricular activities.**

13

14 (b) Each school district within the state shall  
15 provide educational programs sufficient to meet uniform  
16 student content and performance standards at the level  
17 established by the state board of education in the  
18 following areas of knowledge and skills:

19

20 (i) Common core of knowledge:

21

22 (0) Computer science.

23

1 (iii) Common core of skills:

2

3 (C) ~~Keyboarding~~ Computational thinking and  
4 computer applications;

5

6 **21-16-1307. Success curriculum; test standards.**

7

8 (b) The success curriculum required to qualify for  
9 honor or performance scholarship eligibility under this  
10 article for students graduating from high school in the  
11 2018-2019 school year and each school year thereafter shall  
12 be as follows:

13

14 (i) Math - four (4) years of math to include  
15 those specified in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of this  
16 paragraph. Courses which are the functional equivalent of  
17 the specified courses, including courses taken before grade  
18 nine (9), may be used to satisfy the level of the  
19 requirements of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of this  
20 paragraph:

21

22 (D) An additional math or computer science  
23 course taken in grades nine (9) through twelve (12). A

1 computer science course shall not satisfy a requirement of  
2 this paragraph if the computer science course is used to  
3 satisfy one (1) year of science under paragraph (iii) of  
4 this subsection.

5  
6 (d) The success curriculum required to qualify for  
7 opportunity scholarship eligibility under this article for  
8 students graduating from high school in the 2010-2011  
9 school year and each school year thereafter shall be as  
10 follows:

11  
12 (i) Math - four (4) years of math to include  
13 those specified in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of this  
14 paragraph. Courses which are the functional equivalent of  
15 the specified courses, including courses taken before grade  
16 nine (9), may be used to satisfy the level of the  
17 requirements of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of this  
18 paragraph:

19  
20 (D) An additional math or computer science  
21 course taken in grades nine (9) through twelve (12). A  
22 computer science course shall not satisfy a requirement of  
23 this paragraph if the computer science course is used to

1 satisfy one (1) year of science under paragraph (iii) of  
2 this subsection.

3

4 **Section 2.** W.S. 21-9-101(b)(i)(M) is repealed.

5

6 **Section 3.**

7

8 (a) The department of education shall conduct a  
9 thorough analysis of all changes and costs necessary to  
10 implement this act in every school district in the state.  
11 In conducting this analysis the department shall conduct  
12 site visits and shall consult with Wyoming school districts  
13 currently offering computer science programs and courses.  
14 The department shall report the results of the analysis to  
15 the joint education interim committee not later than  
16 September 30, 2019.

17

18 (b) The department of education shall work with the  
19 professional teaching standards board, nonprofit  
20 organizations and industry to develop a computer science  
21 endorsement for elementary, middle and high schools that  
22 can be implemented in every district in the state.

23

1           (c) The state board of education shall promulgate  
2 uniform student content and performance standards for  
3 computer science before January 1, 2020.

4

5           **Section 4.** Amendments to W.S. 21-2-304 and 21-16-1307  
6 contained in this act shall only apply to those students  
7 graduating high school on or after July 1, 2018.

8

9           **Section 5.** This act is effective July 1, 2018.

10

11

(END)