

**DRAFT**

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LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO  
Sixty-third Legislature Second Regular Session - 2016  
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1 AN ACT  
2 RELATING TO COURSES OF INSTRUCTION; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO  
3 CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1633, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE  
4 THE COMPUTER SCIENCE INITIATIVE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND RELATED PROVI-  
5 SIONS.

6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 SECTION 1. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
8 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
9 ignated as Section 33-1633, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

10 33-1633. COMPUTER SCIENCE INITIATIVE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. (1) As used  
11 in this section:

12 (a) "Blended professional development" means to deliver content and  
13 training to in a combination of online and face-to-face.

14 (b) "Computer science" means the study of principles, applications and  
15 technologies of computing and computers.

16 (2) The STEM action center, the state board of education and the state  
17 department of education shall collaborate to develop and implement a com-  
18 puter science initiative for public schools by:

19 (a) Adopting computer science content standards in 2016 aligned to  
20 nationally recognized computer science education standards with input  
21 from Idaho educators and industries for implementation in the 2017-2018  
22 school year;

23 (b) Providing for professional development on teaching computer sci-  
24 ence by:

25 (i) Developing resources for teachers and administrators relat-  
26 ing to teaching computational thinking;

27 (ii) Providing statewide, regional, online and blended profes-  
28 sional development opportunities for school district staff;

29 (iii) Partnering with entities such as the Idaho digital learn-  
30 ing academy and public higher education institutions to develop,  
31 deliver and provide professional development in computer science  
32 for teachers; and

33 (iv) Distributing grants to school districts and charter schools  
34 that may be used to provide incentives for teachers to pursue  
35 training in computer science or earn a computer science endorse-  
36 ment;

37 (c) Maintaining, using and enhancing access to an online portal or  
38 repository of instructional resources that:

39 (i) Is available for school districts and charter schools to use  
40 as a resource;

41 (ii) Includes high quality computer science instructional re-  
42 sources that are designed to teach K-12 students computational

1 thinking skills and are in alignment with the state computer sci-  
2 ence content standards;  
3 (iii) Leverages existing online resources and portals developed  
4 by state and governmental entities; and  
5 (iv) Allows for collaborative contribution and sharing of re-  
6 sources by teachers and administrators;  
7 (d) Evaluating providers of comprehensive computer science instruc-  
8 tional software solutions and providing research, support and guidance  
9 on implementing software solutions for computer science courses or pro-  
10 grams aligned to the state computer science content standards;  
11 (e) Creating opportunities for schools to partner with local companies  
12 to provide for student and teacher mentoring and internships in the com-  
13 puter science field;  
14 (f) Communicating and supporting computer science initiatives, pro-  
15 grams, events, training and other promotions throughout the state for  
16 benefit of school districts, students, parents and local communities;  
17 and  
18 (g) Creating equitable access to computer science resources and pro-  
19 grams aligned to the state computer science content standards for  
20 teachers, administrators and students throughout the state.  
21 (3) The STEM action center, the state board of education and the state  
22 department of education shall, when economical and beneficial, leverage ex-  
23 isting state resources and systems to effectively and efficiently carry out  
24 the directives of this computer science initiative for public schools.  
25 (4) The STEM action center board may select one (1) or more providers  
26 through a request for proposals process to provide a comprehensive computer  
27 science software solution for school districts to implement.  
28 (5) The STEM action center, the division of professional technical  
29 education and industry shall collaborate to create technical postsecondary  
30 courses of study in areas related to computer science that meet workforce  
31 needs.  
32 (6) The STEM action center shall collaborate with the state board of ed-  
33 ucation, division of professional technical education, the state department  
34 of education, public higher education institutions and industry to develop a  
35 communication plan related to the computer science initiative.  
36 (7) The STEM action center and the state board of education shall pro-  
37 vide a report to the legislature on the status of this initiative annually.