



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Murphy Administration Builds on Progress Enhancing Computer Science Education; Announces Nearly \$1.8 Million in Grants to Expand Computer Science Programs in New Jersey Schools

Trenton, NJ – Governor Phil Murphy and Acting Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer today announced awards of \$1.79 million for two grants to expand computer science in schools. One grant will help 27 school districts and charter schools establish or expand high-quality computer science courses in the high school grades, and the other grant will fund three Computer Science Hubs for teacher training operated by three colleges and universities.

The two grants – *Expanding Computer Science Professional Learning* and *Expanding Computer Science High School Courses* – were funded through the Governor’s Fiscal Year 2024 budget. Of particular note, 17 of the 27 school districts and charter schools receiving the Expanding Computer Science High School Courses Grant have specifically tailored their programs to cybersecurity and/or Artificial Intelligence (AI), complementing the goals of the “AI Moonshot” the Governor announced earlier this year to establish New Jersey as a home base for AI-powered discoveries to create new economic opportunities and jobs in the industries of tomorrow.

“These grants will better prepare New Jersey students to thrive in today’s information-driven economy by providing greater access to high-quality computer science and technological design education,” **said Governor Phil Murphy**. “New Jersey is ripe for this kind of innovation in our schools. We have the talent, the infrastructure, and the job market that will fuel opportunities for students across the state.”

“The goals of these grants are foundational elements in the vision set forth in the Computer Science [State Plan](#) that the Department unveiled five years ago,” **said Acting Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer**. “We know experience in computer science and design thinking can lead to high-demand and innovative careers. These skills can greatly advance opportunities after high school, and that is why we believe it is an educational imperative to expand offerings of these courses.”

New Jersey averaged 13,300 open computing jobs each month last year with an average salary of \$96,251, according to the 2023 State of Computer Science Education report by Code.org. While 57.5 percent of high schools nationally offer computer science, 82 percent of New Jersey high schools currently offer such coursework – an increase from 59 percent in 2017-2018.

Expanding Computer Science Professional Learning

This grant will establish three regional Computer Science Learning Hubs to provide professional learning for teachers and school administrators. The goals of the program are to increase the number of high-quality educators from diverse backgrounds available to teach computer science, provide professional learning opportunities and resources to school districts, and expand equitable access to computer science for all students.

Expanding Computer Science Professional Learning Awards

Region	Recipient	Award
Northern	Montclair State University	\$300,000
Central	The College of New Jersey	\$300,000
Southern	Stockton University	\$300,000

Each college or university receiving grant funding is expected to collaborate with Computer Science Hubs operated by other institutions of higher education in the grant program. In addition, the two sources of grant funding can connect with each other; the programming offered by the Hubs created by the colleges and universities will be open to the school districts and charter schools that receive grant funding to implement Computer Science courses in their high schools.

Expanding Computer Science High School Courses

This grant helps schools implement or expand College Board-approved Advanced Placement Computer Science courses, courses in Cybersecurity or Artificial Intelligence, and courses that are eligible for credit in computer science at a college or university. The grant also emphasizes funding to help high schools that currently do not offer computer science establish such courses in 2024-2025 and subsequent school years.

New courses must be aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Computer Science ([NJSLCS](#)), and courses must be available for student enrollment in the 2024-2025 school year.

Expanding Computer Science High School Courses Grant Awards

County	School District	Initial Award
Bergen	Bergen Arts and Science Charter School	\$39,700
Bergen	Lyndhurst Township	\$39,752
Bergen	Northern Valley Regional	\$40,000
Bergen	Palisades Park	\$40,000
Bergen	Ridgewood Public Schools	\$40,000
Burlington	Burlington City	\$39,871
Essex	Belleville	\$40,000
Essex	Nutley Township	\$39,921
Gloucester	Gateway Regional High School	\$15,000
Hudson	Hoboken	\$14,779
Hudson	Hudson County Vocational	\$39,880
Middlesex	Dunellen	\$15,000
Middlesex	New Brunswick	\$11,990
Middlesex	South River	\$39,971
Monmouth	Keyport	\$39,925
Monmouth	Monmouth Regional High School District	\$37,918
Monmouth	Ocean Township	\$32,745
Morris	Roxbury Township	\$40,000
Passaic	Passaic Arts and Science Charter School	\$39,700
Passaic	Passaic City	\$19,664
Passaic	Paterson Arts and Science Charter School	\$39,700
Passaic	Paterson City	\$40,000
Passaic	Pompton Lakes	\$35,072
Passaic	West Milford	\$16,640
Somerset	Franklin Township	\$40,000
Sussex	Lenape Valley Regional High School	\$36,582
Union	Springfield Township	\$17,274
Total allocation:		\$891,084

The above awards are preliminary, pending a final review from the Department.

The Expanding Computer Science funding is part of an ongoing initiative that builds upon previous grants designed to elevate the level of computer science and technological design courses offered in New Jersey schools. In total, the Murphy Administration has dedicated nearly \$9 million to these initiatives, supporting the establishment of six Computer Science Learning Hubs and computer science course offerings in nearly 50 school districts:

- In 2018, Governor Murphy’s state budget included \$2 million for the Advanced Computer Science grant program to fund the implementation of higher-level computer science coursework in 22 schools.
- The Fiscal Year 2021 state budget included \$800,000 in grants to fund Computer Science Learning Hubs at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Kean University, and Rutgers University in New Brunswick.
- The Fiscal 2022 state budget included \$2 million that was allocated toward grants that supported schools as they implemented the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Computer Science; the grants were awarded to Fairleigh Dickenson University, Montclair State University, Stockton University, and The College of New Jersey. The Fiscal 2023 state budget included \$2 million to continue two of the grant programs funded in FY2022.

