Proposition 28 Funding Can Support K-12 Computer Science in California Schools

Overview

On November 8, 2022, California voters approved Proposition 28: The Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act. The measure requires the state to establish a new, ongoing program supporting arts instruction in schools beginning in 2023–24.

The act defines "arts education program" broadly, and notably, **the definition includes computer coding**. The full definition is:

> *"Arts education program" includes, but is not limited to, instruction and training, supplies, materials, and arts educational partnership programs, for instruction in: dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts, including folk art, painting, sculpture, photography, and craft arts, creative expressions,* ***including*** *graphic arts and design,* ***computer coding,*** *animation, music composition and ensembles, and script writing, costume design, film, and video.*

Each school can determine which program or programs it will offer. School administrators—in collaboration with teachers, families, and students—should together make the choice that best serves students in their local community.

How much funding is available?

Approximately $938M has been appropriated in the Budget Act for the AMS program for the 2023–24 fiscal year. In all, LEAs will receive an additional 1% of their funding allotment to spend on the arts.

Proposition 28 funds are distributed according to enrollment, with 70% based on overall enrollment and 30% based on Title 1 enrollment. Funding is distributed to school districts (LEAs), county office of education, charter schools, and state special schools. LEAs do not need to apply for AMS funds. Funding will be automatically distributed by CDE to each K–12 LEA, which is then required to allocate funds to eligible schools in the amounts calculated by the CDE. AMS funds will be included in an LEA's monthly Principal Apportionment payment beginning with the 2023-24 First Principal Apportionment (February 2024).

Importantly, schools can pool their AMS funds and school districts can facilitate inter-school programs.

School boards must certify districts' Prop. 28 budgets annually, post the expenses on the district's website, and submit the information to the state Department of Education, where it will be available to the public.

Code.org Curriculum is Free!

Code.org provides a complete free, open source computer science curriculum for grades K-2.

Our professional learning for Sacramento County districts is delivered through SCOE and it consistently gets high ratings from teachers! A $15M EWIG grant administered by SCOE is available to fund computer science professional development for California public school teachers.

The Code.org program has been proven effective in major urban school districts such as Los Angeles Unified to small rural districts in Iowa. It is the leading K-12 CS curriculum in the U.S.

The 10 highest LEA allocations across CA are:

Los Angeles Unified	$71,039,653
San Diego Unified	$14,774,818
Fresno Unified	$12,890,905
Long Beach Unified	$10,149,433
Elk Grove Unified	$8,939,349
Corona-Norco Unified	$8,486,321
San Bernardino City Unified	$8,477,247
San Francisco Unified	$7,564,898
Kern High	$7,185,847
Santa Ana Unified	$6,850,230

Restrictions & Considerations

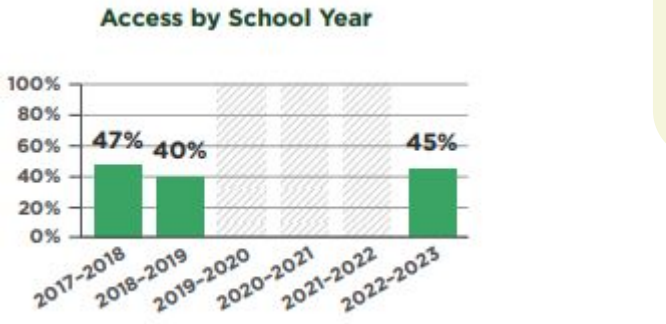
- All funds must be used to provide arts education programs, **which include coding**. LEAs with more than 500 pupils must spend at least 80 percent of the funds to employ certificated or classified employees to provide instruction and the remaining funds for training supplies, curriculum, professional learning, materials, and arts educational partnership programs.
- No more than 1% of funds received may be used for an LEA's administrative expenses, including indirect costs, to implement this program.

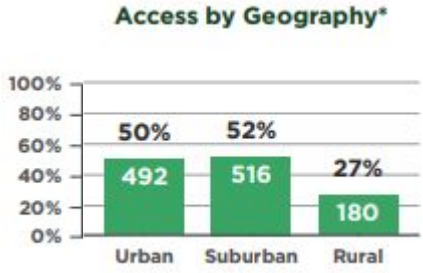
Prop 28 Funding for Computer Science (continued)

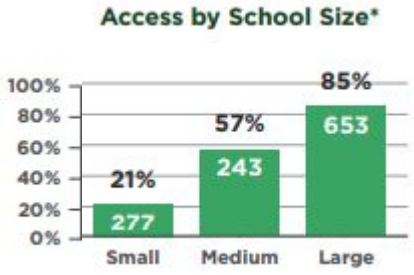
California's Progress with Ten Recommended Policies to Make Computer Science Foundational

- ✔ Create a statewide plan for K-12 Computer science
- ✔ Define computer science and establish standards for K-12 computer science
- ✔ Allocate funding for rigorous computer science teacher professional learning
- ✔ Implement clear certification pathways for computer science teachers at elementary and secondary levels
- ✔ Create university program to encourage all preservice teachers to gain exposure to computer science
- ✔ Establish dedicated computer science positions in a state education agency
- ✔ Require that all schools offer computer science with appropriate implementation timelines
- ✔ Allow computer science to count toward a core graduation requirement
- ✔ Allow computer science to satisfy an admission requirement at higher education institutions
- ✔ Require that all students take computer science to earn a high school diploma

Percentage of CA Public High Schools Offering Foundational Computer Science







The access gap is most significant in small schools and, separately, rural schools

*Data is from the 2022-2023 school year

The State of Computer Science in California

Across the state, 45% of public high schools teach computer science, which is lower than the national average of 57.5%. A lack of teachers prepared to teach computer science is cited as the greatest barrier. However, in California, there is a $15M EWIG grant administered by SCOE that funds computer science professional development. For more information visit https://www.seasonsofcs.org/

Percentage of Public High Schools Offering Foundational CS