

House Bill 487

By: Representatives Ballard of the 147<sup>th</sup>, Dubnik of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 21<sup>st</sup>, Jones of the 25<sup>th</sup>, and Hilton of the 48<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum under the "Quality Basic Education  
3 Act," so as to provide that, beginning in the 2031-2032 school year, a computer science  
4 course shall be a high school graduation requirement; to provide for certain computer science  
5 courses to be substituted for units of credit graduation requirements in certain other subject  
6 areas; to provide for such exception; to revise legislative findings; to provide for related  
7 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
11 relating to competencies and core curriculum under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is  
12 amended by revising Code Section 20-2-149.3, relating to requirements for computer science  
13 education, as follows:

14 "20-2-149.3.

15 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

16 (1) Education in computer science is a critical need for the students of Georgia ~~for the~~  
17 ~~twenty-first century~~; and

H. B. 487

18 (2) ~~Less than 0.5 percent of high school graduates have taken a computer science course;~~  
19 (3) ~~There are thousands of unfulfilled computer science jobs in the state; and~~  
20 (4) The ~~logical~~ critical thinking skills taught by computer science are ~~now~~ very valuable  
21 in many noncomputer science jobs, as technology has become embedded in most  
22 professions.

23 (b) As used in this Code section, the term:

24 (1) 'Computer science' means the study of computers, algorithmic processes, coding,  
25 artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, and ~~logical~~ critical thinking, including  
26 computer principles, their hardware and software designs, their implementation, and their  
27 impact on society.

28 (2) 'Computer science courses and content' means high school courses that teach  
29 computer science as stand-alone implementations and middle school courses that provide  
30 instruction in computer science in stand-alone implementations or by being embedded  
31 in other subjects and focus on how to create and understand technology, rather than by  
32 simply using technology.

33 (3) 'High-quality professional learning' means professional development activities that:

34 (A) Clarify the conceptual foundations of computer science;

35 (B) Teach research based practices, including hands-on and inquiry based learning; and

36 (C) Are intended for teachers with or without prior exposure to computer science.

37 (4) 'High-quality professional learning providers' means institutions of higher education  
38 in this state, local school systems, nonprofit organizations, or private entities that have  
39 successfully designed, implemented, and scaled high-quality professional learning for  
40 teachers and are approved or recommended by the State Board of Education in  
41 coordination with the Department of Education.

42 (5) 'Offer' means providing a course taught by a computer science teacher:

43 (A) Who is onsite at the physical location of the school; or

44 (B) Who is not onsite at the physical location of the school but conducts the course  
45 through virtual means with a proctor onsite at the physical location of the school.

46 (c)(1) Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year:

47 (A) Each local school system shall provide that at least one high school in its school  
48 system offer a course in computer science;

49 (B) Each local school system shall provide that all middle schools in its school system  
50 offer instruction in exploratory computer science;

51 (C) Each state charter school that serves high school students shall offer a course in  
52 computer science;

53 (D) Each state charter school that serves middle school students shall offer instruction  
54 in exploratory computer science;

55 (E) Each local school system may provide that all elementary schools in its school  
56 system offer instruction in exploratory computer science; and

57 (F) Each state charter school that serves elementary school students may offer  
58 instruction in exploratory computer science.

59 (2) Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, each local school system shall provide that  
60 at least 50 percent of the high schools in its school system offer a course in computer  
61 science.

62 (3) Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, each local school system shall provide that  
63 all high schools in its school system offer a course in computer science.

64 (4)(A) Beginning in the 2031-2032 school year, each local board of education shall  
65 require all students, as a condition of graduation from high school, to complete a course  
66 in computer science or a career, technical, and agricultural education (CTAE) course  
67 embedded with computer science which meets the requirements provided in  
68 subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.

69 (B) The course required in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be earned by  
70 students in any of grades eight through 12 and shall:

- 71 (i) Meet or exceed the content standards and any other requirements prescribed by  
72 the State Board of Education for such courses;
- 73 (ii) Be made available in a traditional classroom setting, a blended learning  
74 environment, or an online or other technology based format that is tailored to meet the  
75 needs of each participating student; and
- 76 (iii) Not increase the number of credits required for graduation.
- 77 (C)(i) Except as provided in division (ii) of this subparagraph, a full-credit computer  
78 science course that meets the requirements provided in subparagraph (B) of this  
79 paragraph shall be eligible to satisfy the course required in subparagraph (A) of this  
80 paragraph and one unit of credit graduation requirement for one of the following:
- 81 (I) One unit of math credit; provided, however, that such unit of credit shall not be  
82 a substitute for Algebra: Concepts and Connections or its equivalent, Geometry:  
83 Concepts and Connections or its equivalent, or Advanced Algebra: Concepts and  
84 Connections or its equivalent;
- 85 (II) One unit of science credit; provided, however, that such unit of credit shall not  
86 be a substitute for any biology or physical science requirements;
- 87 (III) One unit of CTAE credit;
- 88 (IV) One unit of Modern Language or Latin credit;
- 89 (V) One unit of Fine Arts credit; or
- 90 (VI) One unit of elective credit.
- 91 (ii) A student may be permitted to earn more than one unit of credit graduation  
92 requirement by completing more than one computer science course that implements  
93 a minimum course of instruction based on content standards prescribed by the State  
94 Board of Education and which is separate and distinct from such other computer  
95 science course completed by such student, and such student may be permitted to use  
96 multiple units of credit to offset other graduation requirements as provided in this  
97 subparagraph; provided, however, that a student shall not be permitted to offset more

98 than one unit of math credit and one unit of science credit; and, provided further, that  
99 there shall be no limit to the number of offsets permitted for units of CTAE or elective  
100 credits.

101 (D)(i) Except as provided in division (ii) of this subparagraph, a full-credit CTAE  
102 course embedded with computer science that meets the requirements provided in  
103 subparagraph (B) of this paragraph shall be eligible to satisfy the full-credit course  
104 required in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph and one unit of credit graduation  
105 requirement for one of the following:

106 (I) One unit of CTAE credit; or

107 (II) One unit of elective credit.

108 (ii) A student may be permitted to earn more than one unit of credit graduation  
109 requirement by completing more than one CTAE course embedded with computer  
110 science that implements a minimum course of instruction based on content standards  
111 prescribed by the State Board of Education and which is separate and distinct from  
112 such other computer science course completed by such student, and such student may  
113 be permitted to use multiple units of credit to offset other graduation requirements as  
114 provided in this subparagraph.

115 (E) The Department of Education shall establish, and the State Board of Education  
116 shall approve, the minimum criteria by which a CTAE course embedded with computer  
117 science may be approved.

118 (d) The Department of Education shall ensure that the Georgia Virtual School operated  
119 pursuant to Code Section 20-2-319.1 has sufficient capacity to enable schools to utilize  
120 computer science courses to meet the needs of such schools as a result of this Code section.

121 (e)(1) Subject to appropriations, grants shall be provided to eligible entities to deliver  
122 professional development programs for teachers providing instruction in computer  
123 science courses and content.

- 124 (2) Eligible entities shall include local school systems, consortia of local school systems,  
125 local charter schools, state charter schools, and high-quality professional learning  
126 providers working in partnership with local school systems.
- 127 (3) Criteria for grant awards to eligible entities pursuant to this subsection shall include:  
128 (A) The number of teachers in a local school system that require training and the  
129 number of teachers in a local school system that have already received training; and  
130 (B) The willingness of local school systems to make available their teachers who have  
131 received training in computer science courses and content to provide computer science  
132 instruction in another local school system or systems.
- 133 (4) The Department of Education shall submit a report on December 1 of each year to  
134 the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
135 chairperson of the Senate Education and Youth Committee, and the chairperson of the  
136 House Committee on Education. Such report shall include the number of teachers  
137 trained, the number of schools offering training, the number of students served and the  
138 demographics of such students, and a list of the eligible entities that provided the  
139 training."

140 **SECTION 2.**

141 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.