MEMO

To: Principals of PreK-12 Schools offering Computer Science instruction  
From: The Offices of The First Deputy Chancellor and Postsecondary Readiness  
Subject: Updates for the New York State Certification for Computer Science Education  
Date: October 3, 2022

Overview

This memo is to provide you with updates related to the New York State Computer Science PreK-12 Classroom certificate, the statement of continuing eligibility (SOCE) application process for teachers of computer science, and recently proposed Regents amendments of sections 100.1, 100.4 and 80-4.3 and 80-3.14 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to Computer Science being considered a career and technical education subject.

Who does this impact?

New York City Department of Education schools and teachers offering PreK-12 Computer Science instruction will be impacted by the following changes.

Please note: Following the Regents decision pathways to certification will be updated on the Search Certification Requirements webpage this fall.

When will changes go into effect and who needs to be aware of the changes?

Consideration of Computer Science as a CTE subject area

It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for permanent adoption at the October 3rd, 2022 Regents meeting, after publication of the proposed amendment in the State Register and expiration of the 60-day public comment period required under the State Administrative Procedure Act. If adopted at the October 3rd, 2022 meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on October 19, 2022.

Implementation Timeline for the Computer Science Statement of Continued Eligibility (SOCE)

It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented to the Board of Regents for adoption at its October 3rd, 2022 meeting. If adopted at the October meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on October 19, 2022. The proposed amendment would extend the date for the SOCE application deadline to September 1, 2024.

Schools that offer computer science courses should assign classroom subject teachers providing CS instruction to teach at least one Computer Science course during the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years to ensure eligibility to apply for the SOCE.

How will this new proposal impact CTE/CS elective courses and programs?

For schools offering computer science NYSED approved CTE programs of study no change is necessary for teachers who hold the Technology Education Prek-12 or Computer Technology 7-12 certification titles. Both certifications may continue to provide CTE instruction.

For CS courses/course sequences, teachers of CS who hold non-CS subject area state certifications will need to apply for the SOCE and/or become certified in Computer Science to continue to provide instruction in Computer Science.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **What should I do if I’m a teacher interested in applying for a New York State Computer Science certification?**
   Teachers must hold the Computer Science Statement of Continued Eligibility (SOCE) or Computer Science certificate to teach computer science courses after September 1, 2024 (the deadline is pending the adoption of the proposed amendment of section 80-3.14 of the Commissioner’s regulations and is currently September 1, 2023). Teachers should apply for the Computer Science certificate as soon as they have met the requirements and the application is available in the TEACH system. NYSED anticipates making all pathways for the Initial Computer Science certificate application available in TEACH in the fall of 2022. The requirements for all of the Computer Science certificate pathways, including the additional certificate pathway, will be listed on the Search Certification Requirements webpage at the same time that all of the application pathways are available in TEACH.

2. **What is the Computer Science Statement of Continuing Eligibility (SOCE)?**
   Teachers must hold the Computer Science Statement of Continued Eligibility (SOCE) or Computer Science certificate to teach computer science courses after September 1, 2024 (the deadline is pending the adoption of the proposed amendment of section 80-3.14 of the Commissioner’s regulations and is currently September 1, 2023). Teachers who hold a valid Professional or Permanent teaching certificate, and taught at least one acceptable computer science course between September 1, 2017 and September 1, 2024 while holding a valid teaching certificate in a New York State public school, BOCES, or other school where teacher certification is required, is eligible for the SOCE (the experience end date is pending the adoption of the proposed amendment of section 80-3.14 of the Commissioner’s regulations and is currently September 1, 2023). The Computer Science SOCE is valid for 10 years from the date it is issued. Teachers who hold the Computer Science SOCE would need to earn the Computer Science certificate to continue teaching computer science courses after the Computer Science SOCE expires. Additional information about the SOCE can be found on the NYSED Office of Teaching Initiatives website.

3. **If I apply for the Computer Science SOCE, what is the application deadline?**
   Teachers must apply for the Computer Science SOCE in TEACH and pay the application fee on or before September 1, 2024 (the deadline is pending the adoption of the proposed amendment of section 80-3.14 of the Commissioner’s regulations and is currently September 1, 2023). Teachers are encouraged to check the NYSED Office of Teaching Initiatives website for updates about the availability of the SOCE application.

4. **If I apply for the Computer Science SOCE, what happens to my current NYCDOE license and school appointment?**
   New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) teachers who apply for and receive the Computer Science SOCE from the New York State Department of Education will keep their current license appointment and will not experience a change in their excessing and seniority status at their current school.

5. **If I apply for the Computer Science SOCE and then begin working at another school, what happens?**
   The Computer Science SOCE is only valid with the employer where the teacher taught at least one computer science course and was employed when the SOCE was issued. It is therefore only valid with the employer that submitted the Superintendent Statement for the SOCE application (in this case NYCDOE) and is not transferrable to other school districts, BOCES, or other schools where certification is required, should the teacher leave the NYCDOE. Prior to accepting a position at another NYCDOE school, teachers should verify if/how their seniority and excessing status may be impacted should they transfer schools. Teachers may speak with their UFT Rep, Principal or HR Director to for more information about seniority and excessing.

6. **Who do I reach out to if I have more questions about the Computer Science SOCE?**
   Teachers should reach out to the NYSED for additional information via email at: OTI Contact Form or tcert@nysed.gov.
7. **How will the proposed amendments impact CTE/CS courses and programs?**

- Computer science in grades 5-8 could be used to meet the middle-level 1.75-unit CTE requirement.
- Considering the shortage of CTE teachers in nearly all areas, adding computer science as an eligible CTE subject to meet the middle-level requirement would help schools, especially our high need schools, by expanding the pool of eligible teachers to deliver the 1.75-unit middle level requirement.
- Computer science in grades 9-12 could be used as CTE coursework to meet career development and occupational studies (CDOS) commencement credential and CDOS +1 pathway requirements, increasing graduation options for students.
- Computer science in grades 9-12 could be used towards a five-unit CTE sequence in CTE leading to a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.
- Districts would have the ability to apply for NYSED CTE program approval for computer science programs in grades 9-12, opening opportunities for LEAs and BOCES to offer programs in a high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand field leading to various industry credentials as well as the technical endorsement for students.
- Eligible schools and BOCES with Department-approved CTE programs could utilize Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act funding to improve computer science instruction.
- As CTE teachers, computer science teachers would be eligible to teach career and financial management and obtain the extension of Coordinator of Work Based Learning Programs for Career Development. Computer science teachers would also be better able to connect the classroom to the real world with this flexibility. This regulatory change would not impact existing computer science offerings leading to math or science credit, or elective credit. It would simply add the flexibility of utilizing computer science courses to meet requirements in CTE where appropriate.