

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 9

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A  
12 COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE DEVELOPMENT  
13 OF A STATE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR EXPANDING COMPUTER SCIENCE  
14 EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

15  
16 WHEREAS, computer science education is important in  
17 today's modern, digital society; and

18 WHEREAS, computer science literacy gives students vital  
19 twenty-first-century skills, and those skills strengthen local  
20 communities, national innovation and opportunities for youth;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the state needs to create roadmaps to address a  
23 number of policy and implementation issues to integrate  
24 computer science as a new subject into existing school systems;  
25 and

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1           WHEREAS, clarity of goals, including a state plan for  
2 expanding computer science education in elementary and  
3 secondary schools and an agreed-upon definition of computer  
4 science and learning expectations, is a critical component of  
5 implementation; and

6           WHEREAS, equitable access to kindergarten through twelfth  
7 grade computer science must be the foundation of a state's plan  
8 for expanding computer science education in elementary and  
9 secondary schools;

10          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be  
12 requested to convene a computer science education task force to  
13 study the development of a state strategic plan for expanding  
14 computer science education in elementary and secondary schools;  
15 and

16          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public  
17 education be requested to appoint the members of the computer  
18 science education task force, including representatives from:

- 19           A. the public education department;
- 20           B. the computer science industry;
- 21           C. educational nonprofit organizations;
- 22           D. the New Mexico school superintendents'  
23 association;
- 24           E. the governor's office of policy and planning;
- 25           F. the higher education department;

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1           G. legislators from the two largest major political  
2 parties from the house of representatives and senate;

3           H. a computer science department from an  
4 institution of higher education;

5           I. a college of education; and

6           J. a teacher leader from a statewide association  
7 representing computer science teachers; and

8           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public  
9 education be requested to provide staff support for the  
10 computer science education task force in the performance of its  
11 duties; and

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public  
13 education be requested to help the computer science education  
14 task force develop the state strategic plan for expanding  
15 computer science education in elementary and secondary schools,  
16 including the following:

17           A. a statement of purpose that describes the  
18 objectives or goals the task force will accomplish by  
19 implementing a computer science education program, the  
20 strategies by which those goals will be achieved and a time  
21 line for achieving those goals;

22           B. a summary of the current state landscape for  
23 kindergarten through twelfth grade computer science education,  
24 including the diversity of students taking these courses;

25           C. a plan for expanding computer science education

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1 opportunities to every school in the state within five years;

2 D. a plan for the development of rigorous standards  
3 and curriculum guidelines for kindergarten through twelfth  
4 grade computer science, including ways to incorporate computer  
5 science into existing standards at the elementary school level;

6 E. a plan for defining high-quality professional  
7 learning for teachers to begin teaching computer science;

8 F. an ongoing evaluation process that is overseen  
9 by the task force;

10 G. proposed methods that incorporate the principles  
11 of the strategic plan into the state's public education system  
12 as a whole; and

13 H. a plan to ensure long-term sustainability; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that before January 17, 2020, the  
15 computer science education task force be requested to present  
16 the strategic plan to the legislative education study  
17 committee; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education  
19 department be requested to make publicly available the  
20 strategic plan no later than February 20, 2020; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the secretary of public education.