

Computer Science (all grades) Certification and Statement of Continued Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions

June 15, 2023

1. Will our teachers who teach computer courses need the Statement of Continued Eligibility (SOCE) or Computer Science (all grades) certification?

The memo released on April 13, 2023, outlines the ten course codes which will require the Computer Science (all grades) certification or SOCE to teach them beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. If the course is reported using any of these ten course codes, then a business, technology, or computer technology teacher would need the SOCE or Computer Science (all grades) certification in order to continue to teach them. For confirmation of the exact course codes used to report teaching assignments, please reach out to your district data coordinator.

2. I have a computer science position opening for the 2023-2024 school year and want to have the individual remain eligible to teach computer science after that year? What certifications can I hire?

To be eligible to teach computer science coursework effective September 1, 2024, an individual must hold certification in Computer Science (all grades) or hold the SOCE. In order to be eligible for the SOCE, an individual must have taught at least one eligible course after September 1, 2017, but prior to September 1, 2024, and hold permanent or professional certification in their content area. Eligible courses can be found on the [Office of Teaching Initiatives' Computer Science SOCE Web Page](#).

3. Can I get the Computer Science (all grades) certification without applying for the SOCE?

Yes. Individuals who meet certain requirements can obtain their Computer Science (all grades) certificate. To search certification requirements for the Computer Science (all grades) certificate, please visit the [Office of Teaching Initiatives' Certification Requirements](#).

4. Should I get the SOCE?

This would be a decision that is made at the local level. To be eligible for the SOCE, an individual must hold either permanent or professional certification and have taught at least one eligible course after September 1, 2017, but prior to September 1, 2024. Additional information about the SOCE can be found on the [Office of Teaching Initiatives' Computer Science SOCE Web Page](#).

5. I am a business teacher. Will I need the SOCE?

If any of the courses taught by an individual is listed on the on April 13, 2023, memo from the New York State Education Department (NYSED), then the individual will need either Computer Science (all grades) certification or the SOCE to continue to teach those courses.

The following courses will require Computer Science (all grades) certificate, the SOCE, CTE Computer Technology certificate, Technology Education certificate, or a Business and Marketing certificate:

10151: Business Programming
10201: Web Page Design
10203: Interactive Media
10204: Particular Topics in Media Technology
10249: Media Technology--Other

6. I am a technology education teacher. Will I need the SOCE?

If any of the courses taught by an individual is listed on the April 13, 2023, memo from NYSED, then the individual will need either Computer Science (all grades) certification or the SOCE to continue to teach those course codes.

The following courses will require the Computer Science (all grades) certificate, the SOCE, a CTE Computer Technology certificate, or a Technology Education certificate:

10152: Computer Programming
10153: Visual Basic Programming
10154: C++ Programming
10155: Java Programming
10156: Computer Programming—Other Language
10160: Particular Topics in Computer Programming
10199: Computer Programming—Other
10253: Information Support and Services

10254: IT Essentials: PC Hardware and Software
10255: CISCO—Panduit Network Infrastructure Essentials (PNIE)
10256: Particular Topics in Information Support and Services
10299: Information Support and Services—Other

7. I am a computer technology teacher. Will I need the SOCE?

If any of the courses taught by an individual is listed on the April 13, 2023, memo from NYSED, then the individual will need either Computer Science (all grades) certification or the SOCE to continue to teach those course codes.

The following courses will require the Computer Science (all grades) certificate, the SOCE, the CTE Computer Technology certificate, or a Technology Education certificate:

10152: Computer Programming
10153: Visual Basic Programming
10154: C++ Programming
10155: Java Programming
10156: Computer Programming—Other Language
10160: Particular Topics in Computer Programming
10199: Computer Programming—Other
10253: Information Support and Services
10254: IT Essentials: PC Hardware and Software
10255: CISCO—Panduit Network Infrastructure Essentials (PNIE)
10256: Particular Topics in Information Support and Services
10299: Information Support and Services—Other

8. I am certified in a content area other than business, technology education, or computer technology. Will I need the SOCE?

Effective September 1, 2024, computer science coursework will be limited to computer science and the CTE content areas of business, computer technology, and technology education where they fit in with the content under their respective certifications. For example, programming instruction is included within the content of computer technology and technology education. Teachers who hold a permanent or professional certification in other content areas will need the SOCE or Computer Science (all grades) certification to continue teaching their computer science courses.

9. Are the course codes listed in the memo the only courses that will require the Computer Science (all grades) certification?

The ten courses listed in the April 13, 2023, memo from NYSED are the only courses that require the Computer Science (all grades) certificate or SOCE after September 1, 2024. Please consult the NYSED's Course to Certification Crosswalk for the most current mapping of courses to certifications. The crosswalk is distributed to school districts via the NYSED Information and Reporting Services (IRS) Portal. School district data coordinators should be able to assist with retrieving this file.

10. Can a computer science course be used as a specialized course?

The ten computer science courses identified in the April 13, 2023, memo cannot be used as a specialized courses. Other computer science courses may be used as specialized courses. For more information about specialized courses, see [Section 100.5\(b\)\(7\)\(iv\) of the Commissioner's Regulations](#).

11. Where can I view the requirements for the Computer Science (all grades) certificate?

To search certification requirements for the Computer Science (all grades) certificate, please visit the [Office of Teaching Initiatives' Certification Requirements](#).

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Search Certification Requirements" with a green header. Below the header, the instruction "Select Your Certificate Title by choosing from the dropdowns below" is displayed. The form contains five rows of dropdown menus:

- Row 1: "Select an [Area of Interest](#)" with the selected value "Classroom Teacher".
- Row 2: "Select a Subject Area" with the selected value "Computer Science".
- Row 3: "Select a Grade Level" with the selected value "Pre K-12 - All Grades".
- Row 4: "Select a Title" with the selected value "Computer Science (All Grades)".
- Row 5: "Select a [Type of Certificate](#)" with the selected value "Select".

A blue "Search" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

12. Where can I view a list of teacher preparation programs for computer science?

To view a list of teacher preparation programs for the Computer Science (all grades) certificate, please visit the [Office of College and University Evaluation's Inventory of Registered Programs](#).

13. Is the SOCE renewable after 10 Years?

The SOCE will expire ten years after it is issued. To continue teaching courses requiring certification after the expiration date, individuals possessing the SOCE will need to work towards receiving initial certification in Computer Science (all grades) during that ten-year period. For more information about the Computer Science (all grades) certificate, please visit the [Office of Teaching Initiatives' Certification Requirements](#).

14. What college courses will qualify for the Computer Science (all grades) certification?

For the Computer Science (all grades) certificate, acceptable courses would typically be offered by a computer science department at an institution of higher education and would include courses that address one or more of the following four computer science concept areas in the [NYS Computer Science Learning Standards](#):

- Impacts of computing (e.g., society, ethics, accessibility)
- Computational thinking (e.g., modeling and simulation, data analysis and visualization, abstraction and decomposition, and algorithms and programming)
- Networks and systems design (e.g., hardware, software, networks, and the internet)
- Cybersecurity (e.g., risks, safeguards, and response)

The courses may have been completed at any time in the past. For more information about acceptable college courses, please visit the [Coursework for Computer Science Certification Webpage](#)

15. How is the Superintendent Statement submitted? What must be included in the Superintendent Statement?

The Superintendent Statement is submitted in TEACH by the employer. The statement should verify that the teacher taught an acceptable computer science course by recording the course number and course name from the [acceptable](#)

[course list](#). In the Superintendent Statement, the employer would also be verifying current employment in the public school, BOCES, or other school where teacher certification is required. Employer's note: Please use the specific Computer Science SOCE Superintendent Statement in TEACH. A Verification of Experience will not be accepted.

16. Can CTE Computer Technology teachers teach 10000: CTE Middle Level Introduction to Computer Science 7-8 and 60000: CTE Middle Level Introduction to Computer Science 5-6?

No, Computer Science (all grades) certificate or SOCE holders will be the only individuals certified to teach 10000: CTE Middle Level Introduction to Computer Science 7-8 and 60000: CTE Middle Level Introduction to Computer Science 5-6. Since computer technology is considered to fall under the trade and technical education content area, computer technology teachers may teach 22200: CTE Middle Level Introduction to Trades 7-8 and 72200: CTE Middle Level Introduction to Trades 5-6 (if the Computer Technology 7-12 teacher holds a 5-6 extension). Where appropriate, a computer technology teacher may adapt [content modules from another content area](#), such as computer science, to be taught through the lens of their content area.

17. Can Computer Science (all grades) teachers teach Career and Financial Management?

Career and Financial Management may be taught by any CTE teacher title as well as the five classroom titles of agriculture, business and marketing, computer science, family and consumer sciences, or technology education.

18. Does the teacher need to teach the computer science course for the entire 2023-24 school year before they can apply for the SOCE?

To be eligible for the SOCE, an individual must have taught an eligible course code between September 1, 2017, and August 31, 2024, in addition to other requirements. This can be for a full year, semester, or quarter year. Additional requirements for the SOCE can be found on the [Office of Teaching Initiatives' Computer Science SOCE Web Page](#).

19. Is the Computer Science Content Specialty test (CST) available?

The Computer Science CST is not yet available. Candidates will be manually exempted from this requirement until the CST is available.

20. What grade levels are considered Computer Science Discoveries – Prior to Secondary?

Course codes that are considered prior-to-secondary are for grades six and below.

21. Is NYSED still working on the “Industry experience” pathway to Computer Science (all grades) certification?

NYSED is still working on the industry experience pathway. There are no updates at this time.

22. Can I apply for the SOCE after September 1, 2024?

No, teachers must apply for the SOCE in TEACH and pay the application fee on or before September 1, 2024.

23. If I receive my SOCE while working in one district, does it transfer if I take a position in another district or BOCES?

No.