June 29th, 2020

RE: 19 TAC 74, Subchapter A

Dear SBOE Board,

Please. Might you consider updating 19 TAC Chapter 74, Subchapter A with a requirement that at least one of the following introductory courses be offered?

* Fundamentals of CS
* CS 1 or
* AP CS Principles.

TEA staff recommended to strike this requirement for CS courses, but there was no substitution to update this requirement. **This would effectively ELIMINATE the requirement that all Texas high schools offer a CS course.**

Young women are already under-represented. NCWIT [Aspirations.org](http://Aspirations.org) removed grade point average as an award criterion to open the doors to all students. But the first step is the opportunity to take a computer science course.

I have been an advocate for computer science education since 1985. I was one of the first certified computer science teachers in Texas and on the TEKS writing committees. I have seen how programming changes the brains of my students giving them abilities in mathematics and processes to solve problems. I started testifying at SBOE meetings to allow computer science to count as a math credit, as I knew this was a brain changer. See my history at <https://knorth.edublogs.org/about/history/> and <https://knorth.edublogs.org/editorials-published/politics/> for my SBOE testimony. I continue to advocate for an equitable opportunity for all students to take CS, <https://advocacy.code.org/2019_state_of_cs.pdf>.

Texas has been the leader and role model in the nation for computer science education. In April, 2014, the State Board of Education (SBOE) amended [Chapter 74.3(b)(2)(I) of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac%24ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=2&ch=74&rl=3)) to include certain Technology Applications courses as part of the Required High School Curriculum. These courses included several computer science and CS-related courses. This made Texas the FIRST state in the nation to require that computer science be offered in all high schools.

The transition of computer science to CTE has met with implementation bugs. I hope the proposal below will debug this problem. Even though other CTE courses aren’t required to be offered by every high school, computer science stands alone to educate students in order to be a literate adult in the 21st Century. CS is a must! No other set of CTE courses is so clearly tied to college and career readiness and to competitiveness in the Texas economy.

Please support the CS4TX Proposed Solution:

* Modify the current code to require all high schools to offer at least one introductory level CS course out of these three options: Fundamentals of Computer Science, AP Computer Science Principles, or Computer Science I.
* 74.3 (b) (2) (I)  ~~technology applications-~~computer science One of the following three courses: Fundamentals of Computer Science, Computer Science I, or AP Computer Science Principles ~~and Computer Science II or Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science and at least two courses selected from Computer Science III, Digital Art and Animation, Digital Communications in the 21st Century, Digital Design and Media Production, Digital Forensics, Digital Video and Audio Design, Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science, Fundamentals of Computer Science, Game Programming and Design, Independent Study in Evolving/Emerging Technologies, Independent Study in Technology Applications, Mobile Application Development, Robotics Programming and Design, 3-D Modeling and Animation, Web Communications, Web Design, and Web Game Development; and~~

Thank you for your consideration,

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[www.build-a-brain.com](http://www.build-a-brain.com)

<https://buildagarden.edublogs.org/>

TEKS modified by vote 5-0 My feelings and take-away follows:

What sets my soul on fire is volunteering to help laws get passed that deal with the equity issue of computer science education. Six years ago the Texas SBOE passed a law that every high school offer computer science. Yesterday July 1, 2020 that might have been eliminated without the leadership of CS4TX testifying before the C&I committee who approved continuing this requirement 5-0. Today the amendment is going to the full board for final approval. Will be watching this momentarily, http://www.adminmonitor.com/tx/tea/general\_meeting/202007021/ - If anyone wants to get involved in this learn who you vote for that controls our schools. CS's know it is the end cases that can cause major bugs. To know that one person who works for the Texas Education Agency had control of taking this requirement out when CS was moved to CTE to get weighted Perkins funding is scary. Board of educations have so much on their plates they rely on others to learn what to vote for. I learned that the SBOE and public do not grasp the importance of computer science education. I am hoping that those in AnitaB can spread the word by talking to those you vote for. And watch a board meeting as that is an eye opener if you want to learn why the education system has so many bugs.