# INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
## Los Angeles Unified School District
### Division of Instruction
### Instructional Technology Initiative

**TO:**      Elementary School Principals          **DATE:** March 15, 2021

**FROM:**    Alison Yoshimoto-Towery
Chief Academic Officer

Sophia Mendoza
Director, Instructional Technology Initiative

**SUBJECT:**  **AMAZON FUTURE ENGINEER + BOOTUP ELEMENTARY COMPUTER SCIENCE INITIATIVE**

Los Angeles Unified was awarded the Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp Elementary Computer Science sponsorship for 200 Title I elementary schools. This is a service award (no money is awarded) that provides all of the support needed to implement computer science in elementary grades districtwide. All professional development, support, and curriculum will be provided to each participating school or elementary school teacher at no cost. The Amazon Future Engineer sponsorship provides three years of ongoing onsite professional development to elementary teachers on the content and pedagogy of computer science education. Selected Title I schools will be awarded eight onsite professional development workshops, eight days of model teaching and/or coaching, curricula, and teacher lesson plans.

**Background**
Board Resolution Res-039-17/18 Empowering Today's Learners for Tomorrow's Increasingly Digital World through Access and Equity of Digital Tools and Resources outlines the District's commitment to expanding computer science education for all students by 2025, ensuring every student has access to computer science education in PK-12.

In August 2020, L.A. Unified applied for the Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp Elementary Computer Science sponsorship. BootUp PD is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit, with experience implementing district-wide elementary computer science initiatives with a focus on creativity and problem-solving. BootUp has worked with over 250 elementary schools in eight states, impacting over 120,000 students since 2015. BootUp prepares teachers to facilitate open-ended coding projects in the free platforms Scratch and ScratchJr that are not only project-based, but also personally meaningful.

Students choose an area of interest that is compelling to them and find a way to explore that interest with code through design, music, art, animation, games, or stories.

**Next Steps**
Instructional Technology Initiative (ITI) will take the lead in coordinating these efforts. Below please find dates for upcoming grant activities:

| Date | Action |
|---|---|
| March 18, 2021 | The application window will open |
| April 6, 2021 | Informational webinar Question & Answer (Q&A) session at 3:30 p.m.<br><br>Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/91833742281 Meeting ID: 918 3374 2281 |
| April 19, 2021 | The application window will close |
| April 19-23, 2021 | Applications will be scored |
| April 24, 2021 | ITI will submit applications to LD for final selection |

If you have any questions, please contact Sophia Mendoza, Director, Instructional Technology Initiative, at sophia.mendoza@lausd.net.

Attachment A: Amazon Future Engineer + Bootup Elementary Computer Science Initiative Intent to Participate

c:  Local District Superintendents
    Adminstrators of Instruction
    Megan Rielly
    Soheil Katal
    David Baca
    Pedro Garcia

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**Intent to Participate**
**Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp Elementary Computer Science Grant**
**School Commitment Form**

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**Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp Elementary Computer Science Grant Overview**

Los Angeles Unified was awarded the Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp Elementary Computer Science grant for Title I elementary schools. This is a service award (no money is awarded) that provides all of the support needed to implement computer science in elementary grades district-wide. The grant provides everything a school will need to implement a sustainable computer science initiative, including eight 3- hour professional learning workshops focused on Scratch (3-5) or Scratch JR (K-2), eight days of model teaching and/or coaching, curricula and teacher lesson plans.

As part of the Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp Elementary Computer Science Grant participants will have the opportunity to establish professional growth goals that pertain to instructional design around computer science. Educators will participate in a series of learning sessions to reflect upon and refine their practices in computer science. Each session will provide participants an opportunity to engage as learners in exploring instructional practices that will empower them to provide personalized learning experiences as well as share their learnings with others. Additionally, these learnings will align with and support the District computer science initiatives.

**Goals of the Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp Elementary Computer Science Grant:**
This grant is designed to promote learner agency and challenge teachers to continuously learn and reflect upon their instructional practice with computer science education. As part of the grant teachers will:
- Provide learning opportunities to expand participants' proficiency in computer science design practices.
- Engage in a reflect-and-refine cycle with an emphasis on creating engaging learning environments and increasing student achievement.
- Enhance and improve teaching and learning by strategically leveraging Scratch or Scratch Jr through lesson design.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to receive non-evaluative support in the exploration and application of computer science.
- Provide an opportunity to learn from others to help participants refine and reshape their own visions of computer science education.
- Provide collaboration among participants, which includes inquiry group meetings centered on lesson study, action research, text-based discussions and other activities to convene in common dialogues about teaching.

**Commitment:**
A school selected for Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp Elementary Computer Science Grant is committed to pioneering and modeling for others in the District how to engage in the instructional shifts and practices in computer science education. Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp Elementary Computer Science Grant will focus on computer science and collaboration among the school community, leadership, and instructional staff for effective school-wide implementation of computer science.

As part of the grant, the school will select onsite teachers who will work with Amazon Future Engineer in designing interdisciplinary cross-curricular, cross-disciplinary, transferable, noncognitive, and soft skills learning experiences that leverage digital resources.

**As a participant in the Program, the school agrees to the following:**
- Select a main point of contact to work with the Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp's staff to schedule onsite visits.

- Convene a team of teachers who will work with the Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp's staff and attend 8 days of professional learning throughout the year.

- Establish planning time for teachers in which the Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp can participate in collaboratively designing instruction that cultivates these computer science skills.

- Allocate funds needed to send teachers to each of the eight 3-hour learning sessions. Each 3-hour session is structured around the Plan-Deliver-Reflect-Revise model and participants are expected to return to the next session ready to share. Participants will be ready to collectively examine student work generated in order to reflect and revise their planning and delivery based on student learning results.

  a. Onboarding (Virtual sessions)
     - Saturday, August 7, 2021
  b. Follow-up Learning (Virtual sessions):
     - Saturday, September 11, 2021
     - Saturday, October 9, 2021
     - Saturday, November 13, 2021
     - Saturday, December 11, 2021
     - Saturday, January 29, 2022
     - Saturday, February 26, 2022
     - Saturday, March 19, 2022
     - Saturday, April 30, 2022

- Participating schools understand and agrees that the District can collect informal data throughout the school year via multiple channels, including but not limited to surveys, focus groups, interviews, periodic non-evaluative classroom observations, artifacts, social media #EmpoweredbyITI and other forms of evidence to study and share how computer science education is being taught.

**School Selection Criteria:**
Essential traits of a school participating in the Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp Elementary Computer Science Grant must be a Title 1 Elementary School looking to bring computer science education to their school.

**Funding and Financial Considerations:**
As part of this grant, **Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp Elementary Computer Science Grant** will provide eight days of model teaching and/or coaching, curricula and teacher lesson plans.
 ● By submitting this application, schools are agreeing that they will identify the funds needed to send teachers to each of the learning sessions outlined above in the commitments section.

**Duration of Term and Termination Process:**
This one year agreement will commence upon a school's acceptance into the **Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp Elementary Computer Science Grant** starting in August 2021 with an initial planning meeting. Initial sessions will be focused on outlining the school's professional development calendar for the 2021-2022 school year, and program overview.

**<u>Application</u>**

Schools who meet the criteria above are encouraged to apply using the online application. (**Applications Due April 15, 5:00 p.m.**) to take part in this exciting learning opportunity. Schools will be notified by May 10, 2021 if accepted, see the timeline below.

| March 18, 2021 | The application window will open |
|---|---|
| April 6, 2021 | Informational webinar at 3:30 p.m. |
| Aprril 6, 2021 | Question & Answer (Q&A) session at 3:30 p.m. <br><br> Join Zoom Meeting <br> https://zoom.us/j/91833742281 <br> Meeting ID: 918 3374 2281 |
| April 19, 2021 | The application window will close at 5:00 p.m. |
| April 19-23, 2021 | Applications will be scored |
| April 25, 2021 | ITI will submit applications to LD for final selection |
| April 30, 2021 | LD will provide ITI with the list of schools selected |
| May 4, 2021 | ITI will notify selected schools |

There are two parts to the application process.

1. Google Form Application (Application window: March 18, 2021- April 19, 2021)
   - Apply at: Amazon Future Engineer Grant Application
   - **Submission Directions**
     - Principal or Designee must Submit Google Form once completed

2. Acknowledgement Form (page 6)
   - **Submission Directions**
     - Save your Acknowledgement Form as a PDF
     - Save your Acknowledgement Form in your Google Drive
     - Turn on the share feature to "View Only"
     - Copy the link.
     - Paste the link on the Google Form (Section 5, Question 1)

For more information regarding the **Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp Elementary Computer Science Grant,** please visit http://achieve.lausd.net/iti or contact Sophia Mendoza, Director, at sophia.mendoza@lausd.net.

**INSTRUCTIONS: Complete this page and submit electronically as an attachment for the 2nd to last question in your application.**

### Acknowledgment Form

**School Principal**: Your signature below reflects that you have read and agreed to the above-referenced content and you are requesting to participate in the **Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp Elementary Computer Science Grant** Program. Should there be a change in the school's leadership (principal or instructional director) the new leadership team would need to reaffirm their commitment and ability to uphold the commitments.

| | |
|---|---|
| School Name: | |
| Principal Name: | |
| Principal Signature: | |
| Principal Phone Number: | |
| Principal LAUSD Email: | |

**Principal Supervisor:** Your signature below reflects that you have read and understood the above-referenced content and will be an active participant in supporting the above school in their commitments as an **Amazon Future Engineer + BootUp Elementary Computer Science Grant recipient.** Should there be a change in the school's leadership (principal or instructional director) the new leadership team would need to reaffirm their commitments.

| | |
|---|---|
| Community of School: | |
| Local District: | |
| Principal Supervisor Name: | |
| Principal Supervisor Signature: | |
| Principal Supervisor Phone Number: | |
| Principal Supervisor LAUSD Email: | |