

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

TO: Frances Gipson, Ph.D.
Chief Academic Officer

DATE: March 14, 2019

FROM: Sophia Mendoza 
Director, Instructional Technology Initiative (ITI)

SUBJECT: REPLACE INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS COURSE 180101 AND 180103

The District is committed to providing computer science education for all students by 2025, ensuring every student:

- Receives 20 hours of computer science instruction each year in grades P-5.
- Completes at least one rigorous and relevant computer science course in grades 6-8.
- Has access to a computer science pathway in grades 9-12.

In working to provide equitable access to computer science instruction for all students, the *Introduction to Computers* (180101 and 180103) course will no longer be offered at the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year and moving forward. In the 2017-2018 school year, 8,059 students (7,216 middle school and 843 high school students) were enrolled in the course, *Introduction to Computers*. In the 2018-19 school year, 5,517 students are enrolled in the course, which consists of 4,723 students in grades 6-8. Since the addition of three new middle school computer science courses, enrollment in *Introduction to Computers* in middle school has dropped 23.6%.

The *Introduction to Computers* course was developed in the late '80s in response to Senate Bill 813, which prompted local education agencies to create a model curriculum of study in computer education. *Introduction to Computers* invited students to learn keyboarding, word processing, and data processing. This course is currently not aligned with the California State Computer Science Standards.

At the end of the 2018-19 school year, *Introduction to Computers* will sunset and be replaced with *Computer Science Discoveries* (180115 and 180116), *Introduction to Programming: Game Design and App Development* (180117 and 180118), *Introduction to Physical Computing* (180121 and 180122), or an equivalent Career Technical Education (CTE) computer science course for students in grades 6-8. These courses are aligned to the new California Computer Science State Standards. For students in high school, *Computer Science I* (CTE introductory), *Exploring Computer Science* (CTE concentrator, or non-CTE), or an equivalent course aligned to the new California State Computer Science Standards will be offered in lieu of students enrolling in *Introduction to Computers*, which will no longer be part of the secondary course catalog and will serve as introductory computer science courses open to all students.

Teachers who currently hold Business, Mathematics, Industrial and Technology Education, the Supplementary Authorization in Computer Science Education, or the Supplementary Authorization in Computer Concepts and Applications are credentialed to facilitate the *Computer Science Discoveries*, *Introduction to Programming*, and *Introduction to Physical Computing* courses. Multiple Subject Credentialed teachers who have computer science courses as part of an appropriately cored set of classes are authorized to teach *Computer Science Discoveries*, *Introduction to Programming*, and *Introduction to Physical Computing*. The option to core classes is available for grades 5-8. Professional development opportunities centered on computer science education is offered for all teachers through the Instructional Technology Initiative (ITI). For more information on registration, please visit www.lausd.net/cse.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at sophia.mendoza@lausd.net or at (213) 241-5532.

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