

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 558

By Senators Oliverio and Boley

[Introduced February 20, 2025; referred
to the Committee on Education; and then to the
Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,
2 designated §18-2-9b, relating to requiring public high school students to take a computer
3 science course prior to graduating; setting forth definitions; and requiring the Board of
4 Education to adopt rules and update computer science standards.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-9b. Computer Science Course.

1 (a) Beginning with the ninth-grade class entering in the 2027-2028 school year, a public
2 high school student shall be required to earn one-half unit of credit in a high school computer
3 science course before the student graduates.

4 (1) "Computer science" means the study of computers, programming, and algorithms,
5 including their principles, their hardware and software designs, their implementation, and their
6 impact on society. Computer science does not include the study of everyday uses of computers
7 and computer applications, such as keyboarding, word processing, digital literacy, or accessing
8 the internet.

9 (2) A computer science course offered for high school credit shall meet or exceed the
10 standards established by the state board. The course shall be offered in person unless it is not
11 feasible for a school district to do so.

12 (3) The one-half high school credit required in this subsection may be earned in grades
13 eight through twelve.

14 (4) The one-half credit required in this subsection shall be allowed to substitute for one-half
15 math credit or one-half personalized education plan credit.

16 (5) The state board shall adopt rules detailing how credit fulfillment under paragraph (4) of
17 this subsection shall be granted. The rules shall ensure maximum flexibility for students, including
18 by maximizing the number of computer science course options eligible for math credit.

19 (6) The state board shall update computer science standards to include high school

20 introductory computer science courses that include foundational computer science concepts.

21 (7) Beginning in August of 2026, the state board shall make available to all public schools a
22 list of course options that can meet the requirements for this credit. The state board shall update
23 the list as often as necessary.

24 (8) The state board shall adopt additional rules to ensure schools can obtain the necessary
25 teacher capacity to support implementation of this subsection. Such rules shall include flexible
26 options to license computer science teachers, including, but not limited to, an authorization or
27 endorsement. In adopting such rules, the board shall consider including policy that ensures
28 teacher subject area certification does not restrict the ability of students to earn a math or other
29 substitution credit for a computer science course taken under this section.

30 (9) The state board may adopt any rules in addition to those adopted under paragraph (8) it
31 deems necessary to administer this subsection.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require public high school students to take a computer science course prior to graduating.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.