



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 264** HLS 24RS 416
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 14, 2024 5:05 PM	Author: HUGHES
Dept./Agy.: EDUCATION/ HIGHER EDUCATION	
Subject: Computer Science Education Advancement Act	Analyst: Julie Silva

CURRICULA OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2

Adds computer science as a high school graduation requirement and requires teacher preparation programs to include computer science education

Proposed legislation requires each public high school to provide computer science instruction to its students and that each public high school student successfully complete a one credit Computer Science course as a requirement for high school graduation. Additionally adds this requirement to qualification for TOPS and TOPS-Tech awards.

Proposed legislation further requires each public school with students in grades six through eight provide instruction in exploratory computer science to its students, and each public elementary school provide instruction in the basics of computer science and computational thinking.

Additionally requires teacher preparation programs under the authority of the management boards of the University of Louisiana System, the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College include instruction on teaching students computer science.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Annual Total

REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed legislation is expected to result in an increase in state expenditures. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) reports they will need to initiate a professional services contract with five (5) Teacher Leader Advisors (TLAs) to serve as content review experts at each grade band and to develop materials aligned with Louisiana Computer Science Standards. These contracts are estimated to cost \$9,000 per TLA in FY 25, and \$4,000 per TLA in FY 26 and beyond in order to continue reviewing and updating required course materials. LDOE reports updates to graduation requirements can be completed by existing staff.

LDOE's current computer science budget supports professional development, teacher certification, and technical assistance grants to expand capacity to offer computer science education across the state; however, additional funding to meet the requirements of proposed legislation was not contemplated during the department's FY 25 budget development process. Proposed legislation requires a phase-in of these requirements, beginning prior to the 2025-26 school year in order to be effective for public and charter students entering the ninth grade that year. As a result, LDOE reports needing an additional appropriation of \$45,000 to hire TLAs to begin the work of vetting course materials in FY 25 and to provide more time for teacher training. Without additional funding, LDOE reports TLA work would be delayed until such funding can be requested during the FY 26 budget process. TLA work would begin as soon as computer science content standards are approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). **The effective date provided in proposed legislation does not allow for this delayed timeline.**

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Aid (LOSFA) reports the addition of a required unit of computer science to the TOPS core curriculum does not change the total required number of units in each core curriculum. These changes would apply to students entering the ninth grade during the 2025-26 school year (expected to graduate during the 2028-29 school year). There would be a minimal impact on expenditures based on the nominal cost of rulemaking required by LOSFA due to this legislation. Per LOSFA's agreement with LDOE regarding Student Transcript System (STS) data, LDOE determines whether a student has met core and calculates the GPA. LOSFA staff works with LDOE programmers to ensure that the core reference tables reflect current law and rule; the system then uses those tables to determine core completion and GPA on those courses.

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REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate Dual Referral Rules
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}


Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

As reported by the university systems, there will be an increase in expenditures for certain postsecondary education institutions to incorporate the required course into teacher certification programs and to either train existing faculty, or hire additional faculty, to teach the course; however, total costs are indeterminable as implementation will vary by institution and program. The proposed course will supplant three hours of other required coursework. Course releases may be necessary based on existing law (R.S. 17:7.1(A)(1)), which limits approved teacher education programs from requiring more than 120 credit hours for degree completion and is effective beginning with the 2024-25 academic year. Programs designated by the Board of Regents as dual degrees or dual certifications shall be permitted to exceed this limit. To the degree that developing and teaching the required course or courses imposes a smaller workload than that reported by the institutions, costs will decrease proportionately. To the extent that the institutions do find it necessary to hire additional faculty, there will be a commensurate increase in costs. **The LFO cannot corroborate the specific increase in workload and expenditures reported by postsecondary education institutions below.**

Louisiana State University (LSU) System

LSU Alexandria and LSU Shreveport report they will experience no increase in expenditures as their teacher preparation programs already include instruction on teaching students computer science. LSU Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) reports the university will experience fiscal impacts to hire one to two additional faculty members, at an average salary of \$80,000 each (including benefits), to teach the necessary computer science courses. There would also be expenditures related to curriculum changes, as LSU A&M additionally reports the required computer science course would cause an issue with the current 120 credit hour maximum, requiring the curriculum be reworked to remove a course.

Southern University (SU) System

SU A&M and SU New Orleans each report that in order to ensure students in their teacher preparation programs meet the computer science requirements in proposed legislation, the campuses will need to hire additional professors/instructors with expertise in the course. SU Baton Rouge will need two instructors, and SU New Orleans will need one. Funding will also be necessary for each campus to purchase materials and resources for the course. The total estimated cost provided by the SU System to comply with the requirements in proposed legislation is \$206,000, which will be allocated to campuses as follows:

- SU A&M - \$136,900 (\$134,400 personnel costs and \$2,500 operating expenses)
- SU New Orleans - \$67,200 (\$48,000 personnel costs and \$2,500 operating expenses)

University of Louisiana System (UL)

The UL system reported that three of its universities will require additional employees to ensure their teacher preparation programs are in compliance with the requirements in proposed legislation. An additional five universities in the UL System reported they expect little to no impact to expenditures as a result of proposed legislation.

- Grambling State University - \$262,000 for two (2) positions at an annual cost of \$91,000 each (\$65,000 salary and \$26,000 related benefits) and the purchase of equipment and laboratory space, estimated to cost an additional \$80,000
- UL Monroe - \$127,000 for one (1) faculty position at a cost of \$112,000 (\$80,000 salary and \$32,000 related benefits) and an additional \$15,000 for procurement costs.
- McNeese State University - \$203,208 for two (2) faculty positions - one (1) in Computer Science at an annual cost of \$111,238 (\$75,000 salary and \$36,238 related benefits) and one (1) in Education at an annual cost of \$91,970 (\$60,000 salary and \$31,970 related benefits).

Senate Dual Referral Rules

13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}

13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House

6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}

6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}


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