



REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA)  
New Mexico Computer Science  
(NM CS) K–8 Grant Program  
October 12, 2020

**RFA Released: September 21, 2020**

**Final Date to Submit RFA: October 12, 2020 by 4:00 p.m.**

***RFAs received after final date will not be considered for funding.***

This is a Request for Application (RFA) and does not constitute an award. This RFA is designed to promote innovation in the critical area of teacher professional learning in computer science grades K–8. Up to three hundred thousand (\$300,000.00) in competitive grants are available to applicants to:

- 1) Support professional learning on the conceptual foundations of computer science for K–8 public school teachers.
- 2) Expand existing standards-based computer science programs in New Mexico K–8 public schools, local-charter or state-chartered charter schools, including mentoring and coaching.
- 3) Develop a plan to establish a new, standards-based computer science program in a public school, including mentoring and coaching.
- 4) Provide support for K–8 teachers to enroll or who are enrolled in a credentialed computer science program or course.

**Application Checklist**

Please complete the checklist below to ensure that all required information and actions have been completed before emailing the RFA to Yanira Vazquez, Director, Math and Science Bureau, New Mexico Public Education Department.

\_\_\_\_\_ Cover Page

\_\_\_\_\_ Assurances Form

\_\_\_\_\_ Electronic narrative, no more than 8 pages, doubled-spaced, 12pt. font [PDF]

\_\_\_\_\_ Electronic Budget Information Sheet [Excel Document]

***Applications must be submitted to [Yanira.Vazquez@state.nm.us](mailto:Yanira.Vazquez@state.nm.us) no later than 4:00 pm, October 12, 2020.***

**For program questions contact:**

Shafiq Chaudhary (Shafiq.Chaudhary@state.nm.us | 505-827-6511)

**For fiscal/budget questions contact:**

Susan Lucero (Susan.Lucero@state.nm.us | 505-827-3848)

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## **PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA)**

New Mexico adopted the CSTA 2017 Computer Science standards on July 1, 2019. Computer science (CS) is a critical area of growth for New Mexico's economy, and thousands of computing jobs in the state remain unfilled each year. Providing rigorous standards for computer science and increasing access to high-quality computer science training programs will help ensure that more students master computer science skills that lead to rewarding, high-paying, and in-demand careers. Inherent in this call to action is the need for educators to be trained in computer science principles and practices.

Utilizing funds from House Bill 2 (2020), APPROPRIATIONS & EXPENDITURES, the PED is offering a competitive grant to applicants to promote robust, intensive, high-quality professional learning activities that focus on increasing teachers' computer science content knowledge; to plan expansion of an existing computer science program or institute a new computer science program; and/or to provide support for teachers enrolled in a credentialed computer science program or courses. The hope is these initiatives will allow computer science to reach more students in New Mexico public schools.

Computer science professional learning means professional development activities that:

- 1) clarify the conceptual foundations of computer science;
- 2) are grounded in standards-based professional learning;
- 3) are culturally and linguistically responsive; and
- 4) are intended for existing teachers with or without prior exposure to computer science.

Establishing or expanding a computer science program includes but is not limited to:

- 1) hiring consultants to work with schools to plan for initiating or expanding a computer science program;
- 2) credentialing highly-qualified teachers to teach computer science courses; or
- 3) plan for a program of study or develop course offerings

## **Goals**

The PED's goals for this investment are:

- 1) Provide increased access to high-quality professional learning of computer science state-wide.
- 2) Promote and/or expand existing computer science professional learning programs to reach more New Mexico students.
- 3) Promote and/or expand computer science course access for New Mexico students.

## **Eligibility**

Eligible entities are K–8 New Mexico public school districts, state-chartered charter schools, or local charter schools; New Mexico institutions of higher education, including community colleges; and New Mexico regional educational cooperatives serving K–8 students and teachers.

Applications will not be accepted from individual schools (unless they are local or state charter schools), but must be authorized and submitted through their public school district.

## **Application Requirements**

The application must include:

1. Completed “Cover Page”
2. Completed “Assurances Form” with all signatures
3. Electronic submission of narrative, explaining your plan, no more than 8 pages, doubled-spaced, 12pt. font and separated into the following sections [PDF]:
  - a. Summary – A detailed summary how your proposal will benefit K–8 students and teachers in accessing computer science programming; major goals for robust professional development or need for establishing a NM CS program or need to expand an existing NM CS program; and any evidence-based justification for your plan.
  - b. Budget Overview – A detailed overview of the amount of funding request to carryout your plan, connect to the electronic budget information sheet, and **will not supplant** any federal, state, local or non-federal funds, through June 30, 2021.
  - c. Program Timeline – Detailed outline of expected program benchmarks and milestones through at least June 2021
  - d. Sustainability – Describe a clear and well-conceived plan for how this project will be funded once the grant award period has ended. Include any and all additional funding stream that maybe used to continue or improve the grant project/proposal after the grant award period.
4. Electronic submission of completed “Electronic Budget Information Sheet” [Excel Sheet]

An electronic copy of the completed **RFA must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 12, 2020. Facsimile copies will not be accepted.** All electronic copies should be sent to [Yanira.Vazquez@state.nm.us](mailto:Yanira.Vazquez@state.nm.us). Requests for an extension of this date will not be granted.

## New Mexico Computer Science K–8 Grant Program

Due by: Monday, October 12, 2020 by 4:00pm

### COVER PAGE

#### Type of Education Provider

(check box below that best describes your organization or authorizer)

- ☐ School District      ☐ State Charter School      ☐ Institute of Higher Education  
☐ Local Charter School      ☐ Regional Educational Cooperative

#### Authorized Representative Information

Name:		Title:	
Phone:		E-Mail:	
Signature:			

#### Program Contact Information (if similar to Authorized Representative, leave blank)

Name:		Title:	
Phone:		E-Mail:	
Signature:			

#### Fiscal Manager Information

Name:			
Phone:		E-Mail:	
Signature:			

Amount of  
Funding  
Requested:

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Choose One from  
the Drop Down  
Menu

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#### Recipient Schools

(List all partnering schools)


# New Mexico Computer Science (NM CS) K–8 Grant Program

## Assurances Form

*The Superintendent, Executive Director or, an Appointed Authorized Representative must sign below to indicate their approval of the contents of the application, and the receipt of program funds.*

On \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, \_\_\_\_\_  
hereby applies for and, if awarded, accepts the state funds requested in this application. In consideration of the receipt of these grant funds, the entity agrees that the General Assurances form for all state funds and the terms therein are specifically incorporated by reference in this application. The entity also certifies that all program and pertinent administrative requirements will be met. In addition, grantees that accept New Mexico Computer Science Professional Learning Grant Program funding agree to the following assurances:

1. The grantee will provide the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) the evaluation information required on pages 10–11 and in the End-of-Year Program Report (Appendix B) of the Request for Application.
2. The grantee will work with and provide requested data to the PED for the Grant Program within the timeframes specified.
3. The schools/entities will not discriminate against anyone regarding race, gender, national origin, color, disability, or age.
4. Funded projects will maintain appropriate fiscal and program records and fiscal audits of this program will be conducted by the grantees as a part of their regular audits.
5. All records of the program will be retained for five years and access to those records will be available for the purposes of review and audit.
6. If any findings of misuse of these funds are discovered, project funds will be returned to the PED.
7. The grantee will maintain sole responsibility for the project even though subcontractors may be used to perform certain services.

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Name of District Superintendent/REC  
Executive Director/IHE Executive Director

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Signature of District Superintendent/REC Executive Director (date)  
Director/IHE Executive Director

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Name of Program Contact

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Signature of Program Contact (date)

**Note:** If grant is approved, funding will not be awarded until all signatures are in place. Please attempt to obtain all signatures before submitting the application.


Complete and attach after Cover Page. If needed, additional copies of this page should be attached in order to include each participating school.



## Appendix A: Intent to Apply

The Intent to Apply form for the New Mexico Computer Science K–8 Grant Program is due **September 28, 2020, by 11:59 pm**. Submit online via SurveyMonkey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NMCSRFA>



**New Mexico Computer Science K–8 Grant Program Intent to Apply**

Intent to Apply is due Monday, September 28, 2020, by 11:59 pm.

**Instructions:** Completing this Intent to Apply Form does not obligate the eligible entities in any way, but will provide useful information to the New Mexico Public Education Department in preparing for the grant review process. Returning the Intent to Apply Form will place you on an email distribution list for any grant-related updates.

**\* 1. Eligible Entity Information**

Name of Entity \*

Program Manager  
Contact Name \*

Address

City/Town

State/Province

ZIP/Postal Code

Email Address \*

Phone Number \*

**\* 2. Eligible Entity Authorized Representative**

Authorized  
Representative Name  
\*

Address

City/Town

State/Province

ZIP/Postal Code

Email Address \*

Phone Number \*

**\* 3. I affirm that I am the named authorized representative from the LEA, or that the named authorized representative is aware and has approved of the intent to apply for the grant opportunity.**

☐

Thank you for completing the New Mexico Computer Science Grant Program Intent to Apply Form.

If you have any questions, please contact Shafiq Chaudhary at [shafiq.chaudhary@state.nm.us](mailto:shafiq.chaudhary@state.nm.us) or at (505) 827-6511

## Appendix B: End of Year Program Report

*To be completed after award is received, due by July 9, 2021 via [SurveyMonkey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y78QNDS)*

The PED requires specific information about the use of the NM CS grants. Information about the direct impact grant funds have on teachers and students is essential in communicating the progress of computer science in New Mexico.

Utilizing the questions below, provide as much information on the following subjects as possible to facilitate the future of the NM CS grant program. Please enter your responses through this SurveyMonkey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y78QNDS>.

Please do not use teacher or student names.

### Teacher Impact

- Teacher impact - how many teachers benefitted from grant funds?
- If the district did not directly provide computer science professional development, what training did they attend?
- What institution/entity provided the training and how much funding did each teacher receive to attend the professional development opportunity?
- How will teachers sustainably offer computer science education as a result of the investment in professional development?

### Professional Development Outcomes

- What courses/programs did teachers attend?
- What was the teacher completion and success rate for the courses?
- What degrees, programs completed, or certifications did teachers obtain?
- How did the professional development relate to the pursuit or completion of the added endorsement?

### Establishing or Expanding Program Outcomes

- How many new CS course(s) are you planning to offer as a result of your planning year?
- Who was involved in your planning meetings? How often did they meet?
- What criteria did your group take into consideration when choosing a program or curriculum?
- How many more students do you plan will enroll in the new CS course(s) you plan to offer? (only if grant funds impacted middle schools)
- How many students will be served by the new CS course(s) you plan to offer (only if grant funds impacted elementary schools)
- What institution/entity provided support or guidance as you planned to establish or expand your CS program?
- What are your next steps?

### Expected Impact on Students

- How many more students are being taught computer science from the teachers who received NM CS grant funds?
- How many more computer science courses does your district offer? (only if grant funds impacted middle schools)
- How many new CS courses are you offering as a result of the NM CS professional development funds? (only if grant funds impacted middle schools)
- How many more minority students are taking CS courses? (only if grant funds impacted middle schools)
- How many more high-poverty students are taking CS courses? (only if grant funds impacted middle schools)
- What is the male/female ratio in your CS courses? (only if grant funds impacted middle schools)

#### **Anticipated CS Needs**

- What are your greatest needs related to computer science?
- What would help you attract and retain computer science teachers? (only if grant funds impacted middle schools)
- What are your plans regarding future computer science courses or continued integration K–8?
- Please provide any additional information about how the NM CS grant has impacted education, student attainment, school culture, parent engagement, or any other aspects that you have noticed.