



July 14, 2016

Dear Fellow Governor,

As Co-Chairs of the Governors' Partnership for K-12 Computer Science, we invite you to join us and other governors from across the country to increase access to computer science education.

Consider the following: computing occupations are the number one source of new wages in America (16 percent of all new wages). Nine out of ten parents want their child to study computer science. Students who learn computer science in high school are six times more likely to major in it, and a computer science major can earn 40 percent more than the average college graduate. Yet, currently, only one in four schools in the U.S. teach computer science.

In February 2016 we partnered with Code.org and industry stakeholders to launch this exciting partnership, through which governors can work together to improve access to computer science education in their states. Specifically, governors in the Partnership are committing to work toward the following three goals:

- Enable all high schools to offer at least one rigorous computer science course;
- Fund professional learning opportunities and/or course support to help prepare teachers and ensure they have the resources necessary to teach computer science courses; and
- Create a set of high-quality academic K-12 computer science standards to guide local implementation of courses.

Expanding access to computer science may seem daunting, but it is more important than ever. Computer science teaches students about technology, encourages them to think critically, helps them develop problem-solving skills, and lays the foundation for participation in every industry. In other words, it prepares our next generation of learners, teachers, thinkers, and innovators for robust participation in the digital world.

Through this effort, you won't be working alone. The Partnership is designed to support you in

accomplishing our collective goals. Code.org and other thought-partners can provide resources to help design and implement a strategy for advancing computer science education in your state, and share resources and best practices for computer science education reform. The Partnership will also facilitate collaboration among all participating Governors and their staff, both virtually and in person. And we invite you to join the Partnership, the National Governors Association (NGA), and others for a hands-on computer science learning experience at the upcoming NGA summer meeting, in Des Moines, Iowa July 14-16.

If you'd like to join the Partnership, or to learn more about it, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Please contact J.R. Davis in the Office of Governor Hutchinson ([jr.davis@governor.arkansas.gov](mailto:jr.davis@governor.arkansas.gov); 501.541.7036), or Sam Ricketts in the Office of Governor Inslee ([sam.ricketts@gov.wa.gov](mailto:sam.ricketts@gov.wa.gov); 202.624.3691).

We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you into the Governors' K-12 Computer Science Partnership!

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



Governor Asa Hutchinson  
State of Arkansas  
Co-Chair, Governors' Partnership for  
K-12 Computer Science



Governor Jay Inslee  
State of Washington  
Co-Chair, Governors' Partnership for  
K-12 Computer Science