

Mark and Ann provided an overview of the goals and vision of the Computer Science Workgroup, which includes creating a K20 pathway of computer science courses and curricula that provides college- and career-ready graduates who can pursue careers in computer science. The overview included a description of each “subgroup” studying a particular issue, including:

- Reviewing strategies used by other states to incorporate computer science courses into the curriculum, including related issues on the extent to which computer science courses can be used to fulfill other disciplinary requirements, such as math and foreign language
- Reviewing strategies to incentivize computer science courses, including Project Lead the Way, Advanced Placement, and Concurrent Enrollment, among others.
- Reviewing strategies to leverage existing national and state resources that can be used to advance the first two goals above, including code.org, codecademy, coding clubs, etc.
- Reviewing the credentialing requirements governing instructor qualifications to teach computer science courses, especially at the high school level.

The session was largely interactive, and we received various suggestions for the working group to consider. Some of the major theme in the discussion included:

- Frustration on the part of industry professionals who desire to teach computer science courses in the K12 system, but being told they lack qualifications because they do not possess an education degree. (A suggestion was made that perhaps the industry professional, who possesses subject matter expertise, can be teamed up with a teacher with pedagogical expertise to teach computer science courses).
- Discussion about how coding clubs are offering computer science coding activities to K12 students, especially at the elementary and middle school levels. Discussion focused on a desire to move these activities from “extracurricular” to the core curriculum.
- Suggestions about a pathway curriculum.
- Discussion about attracting girls into computer science courses, including strategies used to accomplish this.

The session lasted the entire hour, and positive feedback was received.