

Computer Science is Elementary

GREATNESS STEMS FROM IOWANS

GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL



Sioux City Community School District pioneered one of the first computer science elementary schools in the nation in 2015. At Loess Hills Computer Programming School, computer programming is integrated into math, science, social studies and literacy. Children also develop confidence and curiosity in a school climate that fosters independent learning, problem solving and team work.

The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council is launching a partnership with business and industry to start six additional computer science elementary schools across Iowa, one in each of Iowa's six STEM regions.

Business and industry partners are being sought for two purposes:

- 1 To share their expertise with preK-12 schools, including collaborating with educators to design work-based learning projects, and;
- 2 To raise \$450,000 for this proposal
 - \$50,000 one-time grants for each of the six schools
 - \$50,000 for Loess Hills Computer Programming School to serve as a blueprint/resource
 - \$100,000 to hire a project manager to get the initiative started

Six existing high-poverty schools will be selected through a competitive grant application process. Each school will receive a one-time planning grant to weave computational thinking and other elements of computer science into the broader curriculum. After launching no later than August 2020, they in turn will serve as resources for other elementary schools in their regions.

After a planning year, the six schools will use regular school funding streams in the same way Loess Hills Computer Programming School operates. Our goal is to have commitments of support by the end of this August and funding in hand by December 2018.

With Iowa's new law encouraging all elementary, middle and high schools to offer high-quality computer science instruction, the Computer Science is Elementary proposal promises to accelerate this effort, which will help more young people pursue rewarding careers and employers hire the skilled workers they need. As a public-private project, Computer Science is Elementary could be a game-changer.

For more information, please contact:
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Partnership contributions should be made payable to Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines (STEM Council fiscal agent for charitable giving) and sent to:

Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council
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