Making Computer Science count towards graduation requirements

**SB134** Computer science (CS) should be considered a computer science credit on student transcripts, and these courses should be allowed to substitute for credits in either math or science that are part of the graduation requirement. Currently CS courses are counted only as elective credits which means it isn’t a priority for administrators to schedule. Keep the option for CS classes to count as electives under the Career and Technical Education pathways but also allow it to count as a flex credit of either math or science.

**Why do our students in New Mexico need computer science?**

Technology is part of every aspect of modern life; computing is now part of foundational learning.

**Computer Science Gives Students Vital 21st Century Skills**

These skills strengthen local community, innovation, and opportunities for our students. Computer Science underlies most innovation today, from biotechnology to cinematography to national security.

**Computer science courses are part of the economic development of New Mexico**

- Five of the fastest growing occupations are computing occupations.
- By 2017, there will be 1.5 million computing-related jobs available.
- Computing-related jobs are among the highest entry-level salaries of any bachelor's degree.
- If our students do not have access to computer science courses in their schools, they will behind students in other states.

**Why do we need this computer science education bill?**

- *Students who learn computer science in high school are 6 times more likely to major in it. Women: 10x more likely.*
- Computer science is a “new basic” skill necessary for economic opportunity and social mobility.
- Computer science courses can tap into students’ interest in technology, helping them become technology innovators.

**Computer science education is about economic development for New Mexico.**

- In New Mexico there are more than 1400 open computing jobs right now, at 3x the average demand rate in our state, with an average salary for these jobs of $77,287
- A quality public school system is integral to attracting skilled workers to a community.
- Computer Science education in schools can help students develop higher-order thinking skills and interpersonal skills such as collaboration and communication that are necessary in the modern workplace.

Computer Science Teachers Association of New Mexico (CSTA-NM) is working with a statewide coalition of from industry, schools, universities and education non-profits to support Computer Science education in New Mexico.