WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT
Preparing Future-Ready Learners and Leaders

April 29, 2025

To: Superintendent Butters, Board President Widdison, and Weber School District Board of Education
From: Heather Neilson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Date: April 29, 2025
Subject: Request for Approval of K12 Computer Science Grant Allocation

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for computer and information research scientists is projected to grow by 21 percent from 2021 to 2031, significantly faster than the average for all occupations. This rapid growth underscores the importance of providing early access to computer science education for all students. Introducing computer science concepts as early as Kindergarten helps students build essential critical thinking and problem-solving skills while exposing them to future career pathways in coding and technology.

To enhance computer science opportunities at the elementary level, Weber School District applied for the K–12 Computer Science Special Grant through the Utah State Board of Education. On December 14, 2024, Kristina Yamada, CTE Education Specialist at USBE, notified us that the district had been awarded the grant. As part of this opportunity, we were invited to trade in outdated SPRK+ and BOLT robots for a discount on the latest BOLT+ models. Pending approval of the proposed allocation of funds by the Weber School District Board of Education, each elementary school will receive Sphero BOLT+ robots, accompanied by an educator guide to support classroom implementation. To further strengthen computer science instruction for grades 3–6, schools will also receive a set of micro:bit kits to introduce foundational concepts in coding and physical computing. Additionally, the district will purchase fifteen Sphero Indi Class Packs, aligned with the K–3 computer science curriculum, which will be available for checkout by K–3 teachers districtwide.

We request the Board's approval to allocate $131,208.06 in awarded grant funds to purchase robotics kits and supporting instructional materials. If approved, each elementary school will receive these resources for classroom use, with additional availability for teacher checkout to support high-quality computer science instruction. To support effective implementation, Maggie Huddleston will design and lead an in-person professional learning session at each elementary school, providing teachers with training on how to integrate the robotics kits into instruction and enhance student engagement.

Proposed Grant Allocation:

Sphero

Item	Product Code	List Price	Sales Price	Quantity	Total Price
BOLT+ Educator Guide	980-0904	$49.00	$49.00	33	$1,617.00

BOLT+ Power Pack (15 robots)	920-0902	$3,499.00	$2,449.00 (trade in discount)	17	$41,633.00
BOLT+ Power Pack (15 robots)	920-0902	$3,499.00	$3,499.00	15	$52,485.00
Indi Class Pack (8 robots)	980-0532	$1,500.00	$1,500.00	15	$22,500
Shipping and Handling	-	-	-	-	$1,788.06
Total	-	-	-	-	**$120,023.06**
Forward Education Inc.					
(FE-01-0311) Charge Micro:bit Starter Kit	-	$185.00	$185.00	60	$11,100
Shipping and Handling	-	-	-	-	$85.00
Total	-	-	-	-	**$11,185.00**
Grand Total	-	-	-	-	**$131,208.06**

We believe these tools will provide impactful hands-on learning experiences and help foster students' early interest and potential in computer science.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of innovative learning opportunities for our students.

Respectfully,

Heather Neilson

Heather Neilson
Curriculum & Instruction Director