#CSResolution

Arkansas State Board of Education Expressing their Commitment to Elementary and Secondary Computer Science Education

Whereas, Arkansas is committed to preparing all our children for the high-tech future they face; and

Whereas, it is vital to all our communities' economic security and future that K-12 graduates possess increasingly strong coding, computer science, and computational thinking skills to prepare them for the modern workforce; and

Whereas, to provide this vital knowledge to all our children, research and experience shows middle school can be too late to build this computer science literacy and self-belief, especially for girls, children of color, and children from rural, low-income, and underserved communities; and

Whereas, in the elementary school years, when children build skills and self-beliefs that last a lifetime, they overwhelmingly enjoy computer science learning, and uniquely benefit from family encouragement that can shape confidence and interest in computer science; and

Whereas, with such a foundation of basic computer science literacy, middle and high school students are prepared to excel in this defining field to become successful, economically secure citizens, employees, and entrepreneurs; and

Whereas, Arkansas has developed grade specific Kindergarten through Grade 8 standards and supporting programs including the K-8 Computer Science Lead Teacher Program to increasingly address this vital educational imperative;

Be it Resolved That

Arkansas State Board of Education urges each of our elementary and secondary schools to employ available resources to teach all possible children age-appropriate skills and literacy in computer science, coding, and related fields; and

That Arkansas elementary and secondary schools urge and support families to encourage their children's computer science learning; and

That Arkansas schools will seek to create increasingly ambitious plans and goals to reach all possible children and families with this essential learning.