

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804**

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF ACADEMICS

October 8, 2026

TO: The Honorable William Arakaki
Chairperson, Student Achievement Committee

FROM: Heidi Armstrong 
Deputy Superintendent of Academics

SUBJECT: Department of Education update on computer science content and performance standards

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Computer Science continues to be an area of importance in students' educational experience. Computer science opportunities are now offered at every elementary, middle/intermediate and high school following a three-year scaffolded rollout for complex areas, as required by [Hawaii Revised Statutes §302A-323](#).

The Hawai'i State Department of Education, through the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design, participated in the [national revision process](#) to align Hawai'i's prekindergarten through grade 12 computer science standards with the 2026 Computer Science Teachers Association Pre-Kindergarten-12 (CSTA PK-12) standards. To support this effort, Hawai'i's computer science educational specialist served on the national standards revision committee to ensure that the state's equity priorities, educational contexts, and community perspectives aligns with the updated framework.

The national revision process aligns with the Department's Curriculum Management System (CMS) Standards Adoption timeline and process. The 2026 CSTA PK-12 Computer Science Standards were developed over a three-year iterative process driven by a multi-disciplinary writing team across states. To ensure comprehensive feedback prior to final publication, complex area computer science teams were systematically engaged to provide public input during all three major draft stages.

Under the CMS Standards Review Checklist, Section 2c, it was collaboratively determined that a “replace” adoption path is appropriate. This path represents full adoption of the updated standards rather than adaptation of or supplementation to the existing standards.

This action addresses the nine-year gap since the 2017 standards update and aligns computer science education with the four guiding principles of the CMS: Equity and Excellence, Connections to Culture and Place, Focus on the Whole Child, and College, Career, and Community Readiness.

The Department respectfully requests that the Board review the national [2026 CSTA PK-12 Computer Science Standards](#) and consider the Department’s future recommendations for approval and statewide implementation.

2. DESCRIPTION

As of school year 2024-2025, all public elementary, middle/intermediate and high schools have been required to provide computer science experiences for students. The Department has been committed to computer science education, and while initially providing virtual computer science convenings, with legislative support, the Department has been hosting in-person summits to provide exposure to national best practices, standards revision updates, available resources, and networking opportunities.

The Department was directly involved in shaping the national 2026 CSTA PK-12 Computer Science Standards, with its computer science educational specialist serving on the revision advisory team while informing and providing feedback from complex area computer science leads that have standing monthly meetings. Grounded in equity, community input, future readiness, flexibility, and research, these updated standards create clear PK-12 learning progressions. They also align with the Department’s tri-level CMS framework to guide district policy, teacher preparation, and resource evaluation.

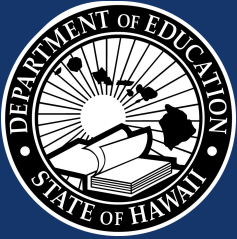
3. PRESENTATION

The Department will present brief background and information about computer science standards in the Department, and the process by which the 2026 CSTA PK-12 Computer Science Standards were developed and produced.

Thank you for your continued support of public education.

HA:tu
Attachment

c: Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design



HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design

**Department of Education update on computer
science content and performance standards**

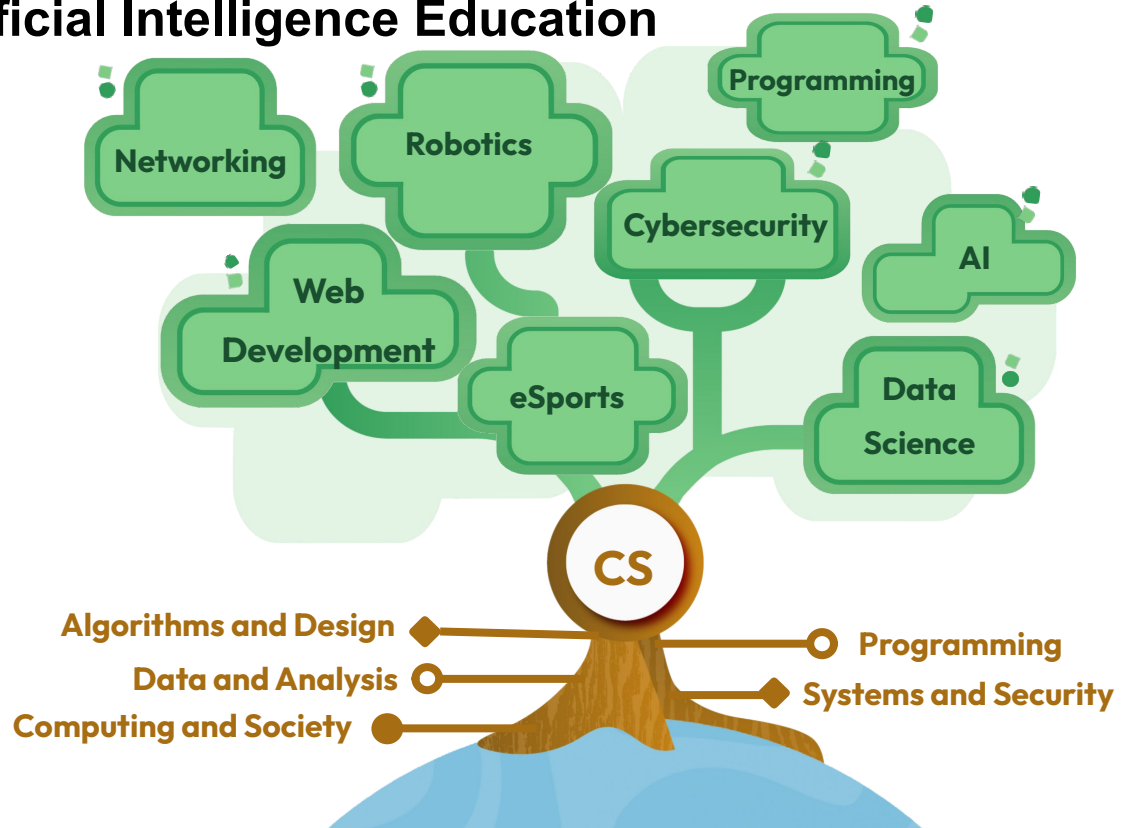
Hawaii State Board of Education
Student Achievement Committee
October 8, 2026

Dr. Teri Ushijima, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design



Foundational Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Education

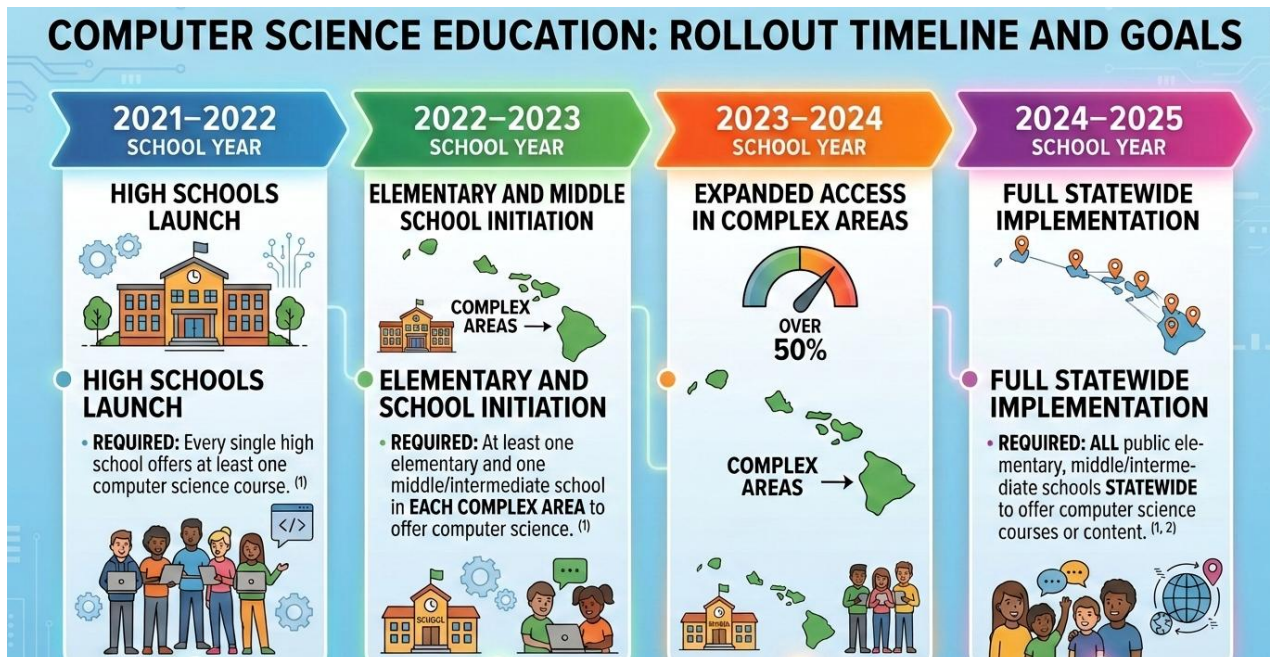
In an age of
artificial
intelligence (AI),
computer science
(CS) isn't just
mandatory; it is
foundational





HIDOE Computer Science Legislation

[Hawaii Revised Statutes §302A-323](#) timeline





CS Standards Revision Process

CS Standards Past and Present



Current Standards Revision Timeline





2026 CSTA PK-12 CS Standards and Definitions



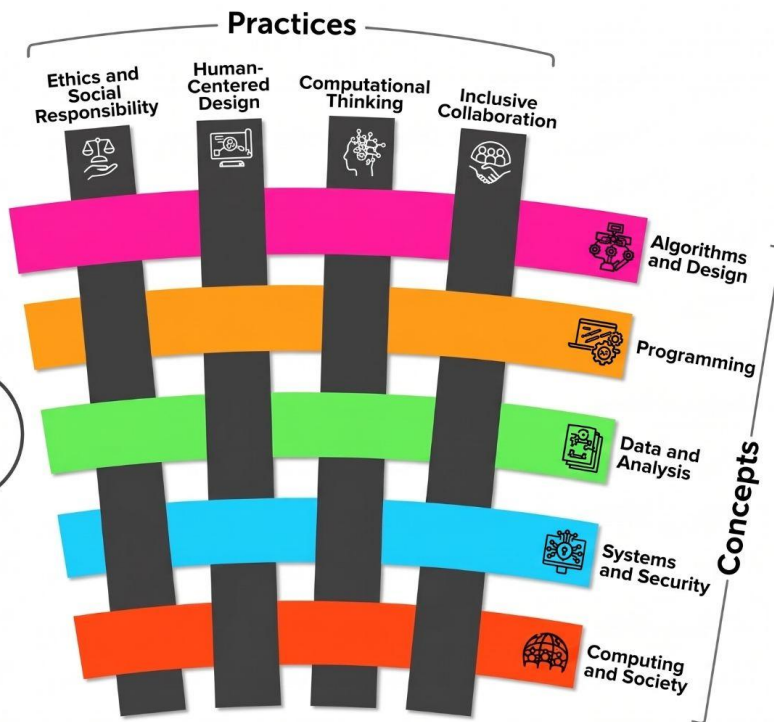
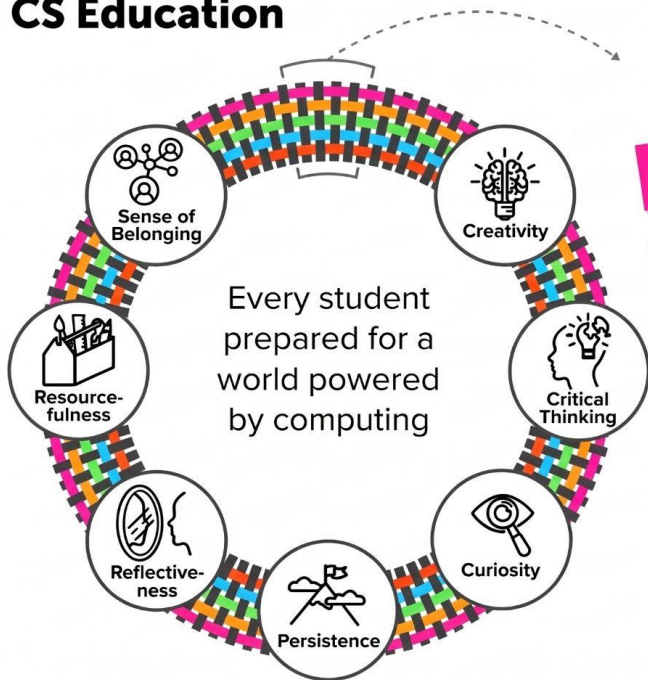
*Computer science is the study and **human-centered practice** of using **data**, **algorithms**, and computing systems **to solve problems, make discoveries, and express ideas.***

<https://tinyurl.com/2026CSTACSSStandards>



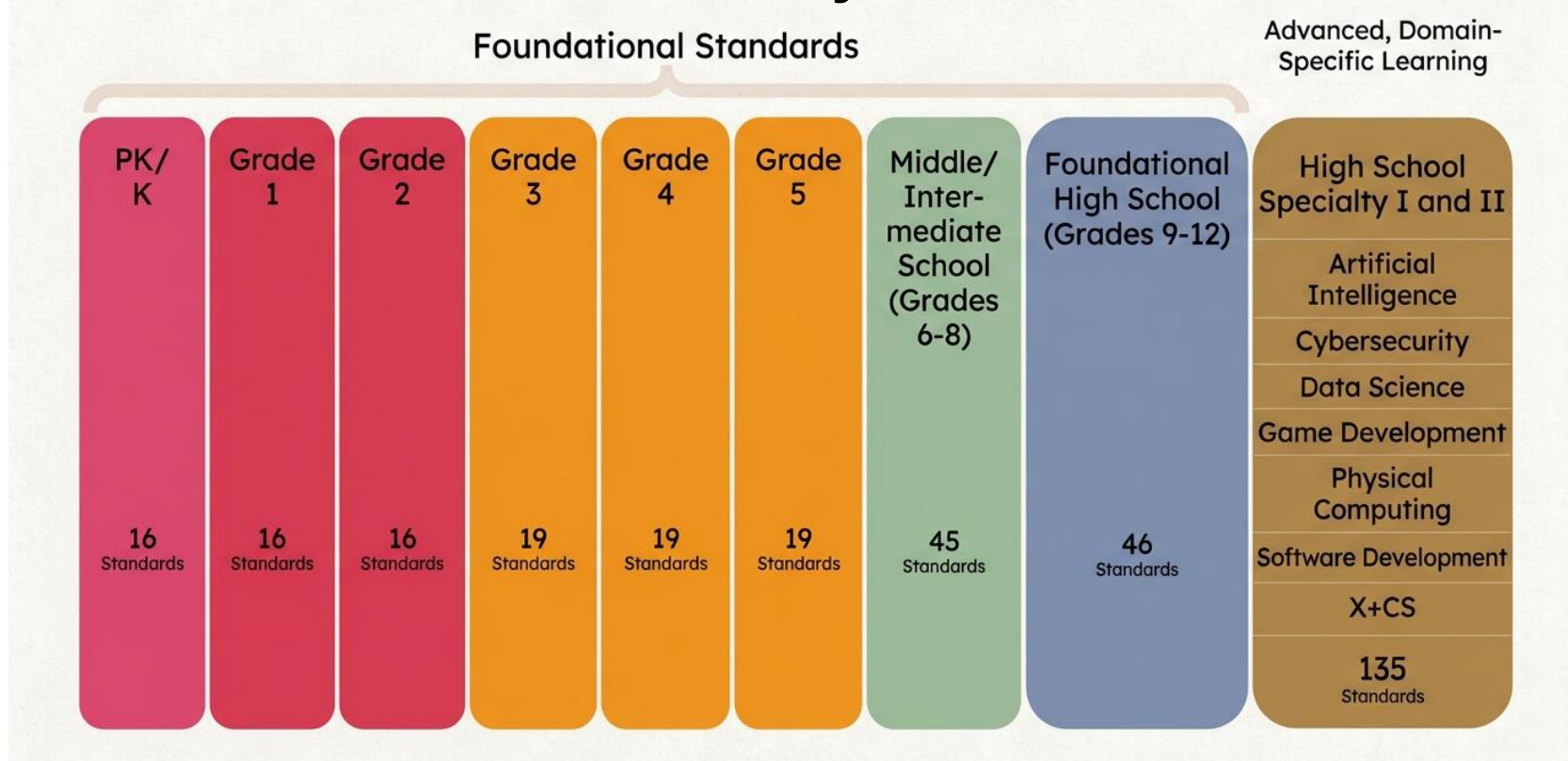
Enduring Concepts, Dispositions and Practices

Foundational PK-12 CS Education





2026 CSTA PK-12 Standards by Level





CSTA Standards Dashboard

<https://csteachers.org/pk12standards/view/>

 **Filters** 

 RESET

Search Standards



Level 

☒ Grade 2

☒ Grade 3

☒ Cybersecurity

Foundational Concept 

☒ Program Development

☒ Variables & Data Storage

☒ Reading & Documenting

☒ Testing & Refining

High School Specialty 

Practices 

Dispositions 

Implementation Examples 



E2-PRO-PD-04

Grade 2

Programming

Program Development



Create code from an algorithm that includes sequence, events, and iteration to solve a problem or express an idea.



Collapse All | Expand All

 BOUNDARIES, PRACTICES, and DISPOSITIONS

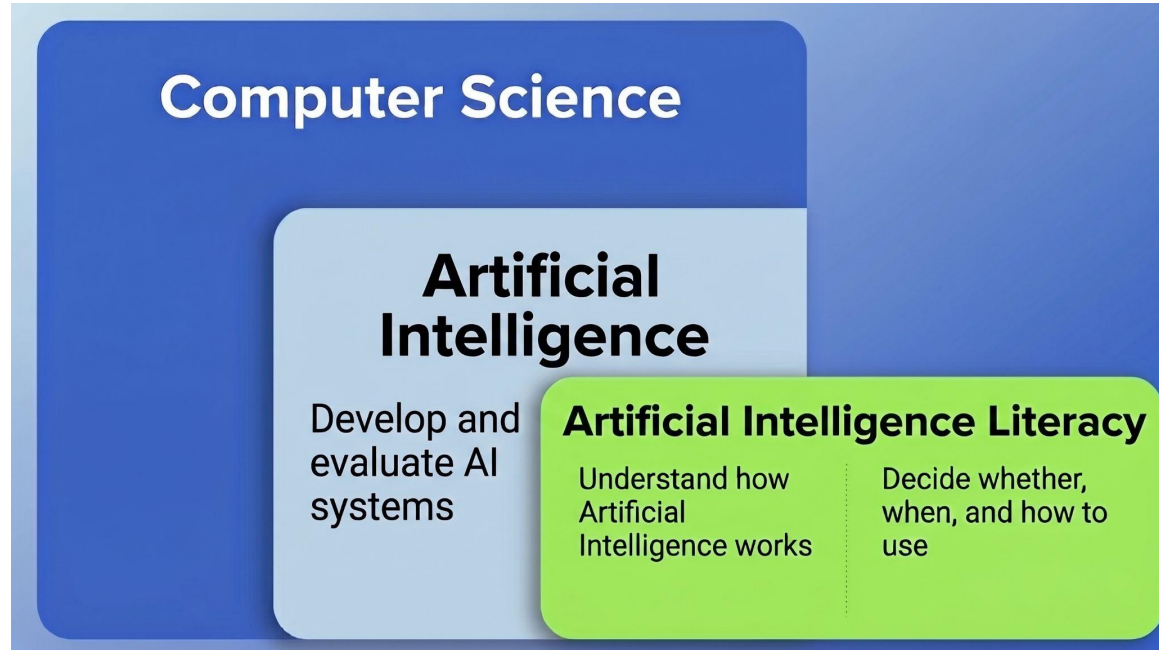
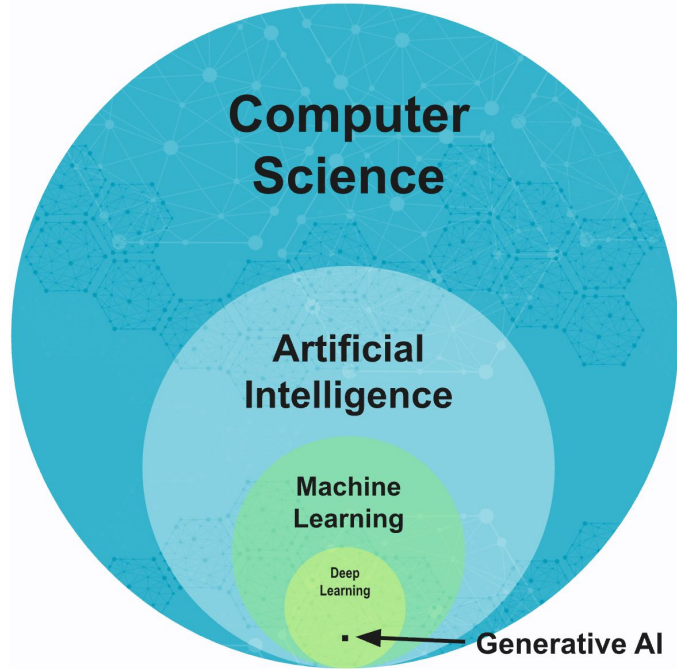
 IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES

 INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS

 PROGRESSIONS



CS - AI Connections





What Support Can the Board Provide?

1

Review the Department's proposed
adoption of the national
Computer Science Standards

<https://tinyurl.com/2026CSTACSSStandards>

2

Consider the Department's future
recommendations regarding the
proposed adoption of the national
Computer Science Standards