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STATE OFFICIALLY KICKS OFF
COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK

“Growing more Opportunities for Teachers to Build Skills in this
High-Demand area is Critical to Expanding Computer Science
Instruction”

Montgomery, Ala. – This week Alabama teachers, counselors, and school
administrators will be participating in what is called Computer Science Professional
Development (CSPD) Week at the Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel and
Conference Center at Capitol Hill.

CSPDWeek is designed to bring together teachers, school
counselors, and school administrators from all over the state to train
on four different curricula:

- Bootstrap: Algebra Pathway
- Exploring Computer Science
- AP Computer Science Principles
- National Center for Women and Information Technology
  (NCWIT) Counselors for Computing (C4C) program

This year’s 2021 CSPD Week is being held from June 21-25.

We extend this special invitation to state media members to attend this event
and see Alabama’s educators in action, as they gain new content knowledge in
computer science. Every educator will also learn innovative best practices to
engage and recruit students for computer science courses. They will also design
lesson plans and utilize various learning strategies to teach K-12 students.

Funding for this event is made possible through the Education Innovation and
Research Grant (EIR) award program.

In 2019, the Alabama State Department of Education was awarded a grant for an
Early Phase project, entitled Pathways for Alabama Computer Science (PACS). It
initiates a high school pathway of computer science courses, primarily for high-
need schools (defined as Title 1) in rural areas (defined by locale code).

Ultimately, PACS is a research study that seeks to evaluate the effects of interest,
awareness and self-efficacy among students enrolled in high-quality computer
science courses taught by teachers receiving high-quality professional learning.

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The PACS project will also prepare an exit point for further credentialing as part of Alabama’s implementation of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Stackable, trackable, portable, and transferable industry-recognized credentials linked to fast-growing, high-wage, and high-demand career pathways in computer science-related areas will create opportunities for K-12 work-based learning and credential attainment. PACS is a collaborative effort between the Alabama State Department of Education, AMSTI, A+ College Ready, The University of Alabama, Tuskegee University, Haynie Research and Evaluation, and Mercedes-Benz.

**About the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Program**

The United States Department of Education’s EIR program, established under section 4611 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended (ESEA), provides funding to develop or take to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-based, field-initiated innovations to improve student achievement. The EIR program is designed to generate and validate solutions to persistent education challenges, and to support the expansion of solutions to serve students.

To learn more about this special project or Alabama’s great Computer Science professional learning opportunities occurring this summer, email cs4alabama@alsde.edu.

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