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Computer Science Graduation Requirement

[G.S.115C-12\(9d\). Computer Science](#) amends G.S.115C-12(9d) to require the State Board of Education to include instruction in Computer Science in the standard course of study for middle and high school students. G.S.115C-12(9d) was adopted by the North Carolina Legislature on September 21, 2023, and was signed into law on September 29, 2023. The following is a highlight of the requirements of G.S.115C-12(9d). Computer Science:

- Requires every Public School Unit to offer a Computer Science course(s) to high school students to fulfill the graduation requirement by the 2026–2027 school year, and as early as the 2024-25 school year.
 - The course(s) that meet the graduation requirement provided may be offered to middle school students and would fulfill the requirement.
- Requires the Department of Public Instruction to adopt a list of approved courses that would fulfill the Computer Science graduation requirement and publish the list on the department's website by November 1, 2023.
- Requires every Public School Unit to offer an elective introductory Computer Science course in middle school that surveys the field of Computer Science by the 2025–2026 school year.
- Requires the Department of Public Instruction to adopt a list of approved courses that would fulfill the middle school elective introductory Computer Science course requirement and publish the list on the department's website by January 1, 2025.
- Requires the Computer Science courses be conducted in person when practicable but may offer remote enrollment options that meet the requirements of Part 11 of Article 16 of G.S.115C.

Students Exempted from the Graduation Requirements

There are two exemptions to the Computer Science graduation requirement for two student groups.

1. Students entering a public high school after completing the eleventh grade will be exempt from the Computer Science graduation requirement.
2. Students on an individualized education program may be exempted if their disability would prevent them from completing the graduation requirement.

Local Implementation Delay Waiver Requests

Local Implementation Delay Waiver Requests were available only for 2024–2025 and 2025–2026; no waivers are permitted for full implementation beginning in 2026–2027.

Required Course Lists

High School Graduation Requirement List



Middle School Elective Offering List



Annual Review Process



Computer Science, IT, and Technology Education

Computer Science Graduation Requirement

NC Computer Science Standards



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