

HB 2128 -- COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Cookson

This bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to develop a policy that allows a student to fulfill one unit of any math, science, or practical arts unit required for high school graduation with a district-approved computer science course.

The bill also requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to develop, adopt and implement academic performance standards relating to computer science.

Any teacher who demonstrates sufficient knowledge of computer science shall receive a special endorsement on his or her certificate of license to teach signifying such specialized knowledge in computer science.

This bill also creates the "Computer Science Education Fund," which will consist of moneys appropriated to it by the General Assembly as well as any gifts or contributions received for the purpose of providing teacher professional development programs related to computer science. The SBE awards grants from the fund to schools, higher education institutions, or nationally recognized providers of computer science professional development. The grants are awarded for the purpose of providing teacher professional development programs relating to computer science.

This bill is the same as SB 894 (2018).