

HB 320 -- COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE

SPONSOR: Fitzwater

This bill modifies the definition of "computer science course" to include both a stand-alone computer course in the elementary, middle, and high school levels or any course that embeds computer science content within other subjects.

The bill will require public schools and charter schools in all school years after July 1, 2022 to offer at least one computer science course in high school, instruction in exploratory computer science in middle school, and the basics of computer science and computational thinking in elementary schools.

Districts and charter schools will annually submit to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) a report of computer science courses offered in each school in the district, the number and percentage of students enrolled, and the number of computer science instructors, along with demographics and additional information specified in the bill.

The bill requires DESE to appoint a computer science supervisor to be responsible for the posting of information to the Department's website.

Beginning in school years after July 1, 2022 public institutions of higher education will allow a computer science course counted toward a mathematics, science, or practical art state graduation credit to satisfy as an equivalent admission requirement.