



## CROSS-SECTOR STATEWIDE COMPUTER SCIENCE STRATEGIC PLAN

**WHY:** Stakeholders across Washington state understand that access to computer science education is critical for growing our economy through local talent and for closing pervasive income gaps. Washington needs a strategic statewide plan, with clear goals and metrics, to chart a course for strengthening computer science education. With more than 20,000 unfilled computing jobs in Washington today—many of which are high-paying jobs that only require a 2-year degree—preparing kids and teens with a strong basic foundation in Computer Science is critical for more people to earn living wage jobs, for businesses to innovate new and better ways to advance humanity, and for our economy and our communities to thrive.

Washington STEM is partnering with the Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA) to create, iterate, and operationalize a Cross-Sector Statewide Computer Science Strategic Plan that will provide equitable access to computer science for all Washington students from early learning to workforce. To pursue this work, we seek support from business savvy, community-minded, and socially responsible sponsors.

**WHAT:** We held focused feedback conversations with internal and external partners from higher education, K-12, community based organizations, and industry leaders. Five themes have emerged as the **Computer Science Call to Action:**

### LEGISLATIVE:

- **SUPPORT K-12 IMPLEMENTATION OF EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CS:** Fully funded statewide, cross-sector Computer Science leadership structure to foster relationships and partnerships by connecting community members, trusted messengers, community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and industry with school districts to increase computer science access and inclusion initiatives.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH DATA:** Mandate improved data visualizations and accountability metrics in statute. Legislate and fund a statewide, comprehensive Computer Science Data Dashboard.

### FUNDING:

- **TEACHER PREPARATION:** Expansion of teacher training programs. More credentialed K-12 computer science teachers are necessary to reach statewide goals for high school CS course availability, expansion of Computer Science Bachelor of Science/IT degrees at community and technical colleges and continued expansion of computer science related workforce.

- **COORDINATION & PARTNERSHIP:** Provide input on Cross-Sector Strategic Plan & support implementation; Organize and host convenings to connect educators, Computer Science advisory, stakeholders. Foster cross-sector connections to ensure sustainable and equitable computer science implementation.

## **PARTNERSHIP:**

- **UNDERSTAND POSTSECONDARY PATHWAYS INTO CS:** Utilize data from Washington STEM's Computer Science Credential Opportunities by Region Index (CORI) dashboard to prioritize policies and funding for increasing access to computer science programs in each region of the state.
- [Washington STEM Draft Cross-Sector Statewide Computer Science Plan and Report](#)
- [OSPI K-12 Statewide Computer Science Education Plan](#)
- [Washington STEM's Computer Science Credential Opportunities by Region Index \(CORI\)](#)

## **ABOUT WASHINGTON STEM**

Washington STEM is a statewide, education nonprofit leveraging STEM for social change, removing barriers to credential attainment, and creating pathways to long-term economic security for historically excluded students.

Washington ranks among the top states in the nation in the concentration of STEM jobs. By 2030, more than 70% of high-demand, family-wage jobs available in our state will require postsecondary credentials; 68% of those will require postsecondary STEM credentials or STEM literacy. We envision a state where skin color, zip code, income, and gender do not predict educational and career outcomes.

## **ABOUT WASHINGTON TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (WTIA)**

WTIA is a consortium that includes a not-for-profit member trade association, a not-for-profit tech apprenticeship intermediary, and a for profit corporation delivering business services.

Our mission is to foster a robust, equity-centered technology sector that empowers thriving communities. We recruit technology companies and allies that view diversity as a competitive advantage, value collaboration as essential to sustainable growth, and fully embrace the opportunity to partner with and empower the communities in which we operate.