

# COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR PARENTS

Careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and computer science (CS) are shaping the world we live in and solving some of its biggest challenges. The Michigan Department of Education is expanding the computer science curriculum. Michigan's schools encourage students to participate in these courses and gain this problem-solving mindset!

## What is Computer Science?

Computer science blends all the "STEM" subjects of science, technology, engineering, and math. Because computer science is everywhere, it's important for students to learn these content areas. By increasing access to computer science for all students as early as possible, we help them prepare for the jobs of today and tomorrow. This education gives them the opportunity to become the world's next innovators.

## Computer Science is for Everyone

Computer science teaches important skills, such as creativity, problem-solving, critical and flexible thinking, and coordinating with others. Computer science also provides a critical understanding of citizenship, ethics, and social good.

In our technology-enabled world, computer science learning opens doors to high-demand jobs and provides students with skills that are broadly applicable. Here are a few examples of jobs/careers that are available: fashion tech designer, mobile developer, medicine analyst, data scientist, music program engineer, and various manufacturing jobs.

By 2028, there will be an estimated

# 4 M

computing-related jobs open  
in the United States.

[ncwit.org](http://ncwit.org)

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Our kids should be learning computer science which is a much broader field about learning how technology works, learning how software is changing our world, and how to participate in that world.  
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Hadi Partov, Founder of Code.org  
TEDxRainer. (December 10, 2014). [Computer Science is Foundational](#) [Video]. YouTube.

[According to code.org](#), as Michigan's manufacturing industry transitions to meet the current market demands, there are more than 15,367 open computing jobs. That's 3.8 times higher than the average demand for qualified candidates. In Michigan, the average salary for computing occupations is \$82,386 (versus an average of other salaries \$49,510).

In adopting the [Computer Science Standards](#), the Michigan Department of Education is committing to Michigan learners that they will be provided equitable access to computer science opportunities regardless of where they live, or the school's demographics.

To get started in computer science, students only need a desire to solve problems and a willingness to explore new ideas.

**Parent Tip:** Check with your child's school to learn what computer science programs and activities are available.

For more information visit [www.michigan.gov/mde-cs](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-cs).