



Position Statement

Computer Science

PROCESS

To make certain that all Idaho students are provided the opportunity to meet the high expectations of Idaho's content standards, educators need access to instructional materials that are not only high quality but well aligned to Idaho content standards. For the 2019 review cycle, Idaho's Computer Science Curricular Review Committee evaluated submitted materials for content, organization, presentation and quality. The result of this process will provide districts with needed information on instructional materials in order to make informed adoption decisions. This process also allows for local control in regards to choice on instructional materials; districts may also choose to adopt curriculum that was/is not reviewed.

The Curricular Review process included an initial training of all evaluators, a remote review of assigned materials, and a consensus review where evaluators who were assigned the same materials partnered up for a final rating on each textbook based on the following ratings:

- **Comprehensive Program** - A program which consistently meets the focus, coherence, depth, and rigor of the Idaho Content Standards with minimal or no need for instructional adaptations and/or supplemental materials. A comprehensive program provides effective content progressions within and between grade levels.
- **Basic Program** - A program which meets the focus, coherence, depth, and rigor of the Idaho Content Standards at a substantial level with some need for supplemental material. A basic program provides content progressions within and between grade levels, though they may be uneven.
- **Component Program** - A program designed and intended to be used to supplement a comprehensive or basic program. A Component Program will support and/or enhance the focus, coherence, depth, and rigor of a comprehensive or basic program.
- **Intervention Program** - A program designed and intended to target and support students' specific needs.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science is an established discipline at the collegiate level. The foundational concepts of Computer Science permeates all work and play in the digital world that we live in. "What would we like our children- the general public of the future—to learn about computer science in schools?"

We need to do away with the myth that computer science is about computers. Computer science is no more about computers than astronomy is about telescopes, biology is about microscopes or chemistry is about beakers and test tubes. Science is not about tools, it is about how we use them and what we find out when we do. Engineering deals precisely with the notion of “how to.” Science and Mathematics deal precisely with the notion of “what is.” Computer Science deals with both aspects of computation and information.

While Computer Science can be defined in various ways, the following definition is the one the working group has chosen to use. “Computer science is the scientific and engineering approach to computation, as well as its applications and impact. It is the systematic study of the feasibility, structure, expression, and mechanization of the methodical procedures (or algorithms) that underlie the acquisition, representation, processing, storage, communication of, and access to information”.

Computer Science broadly encompasses data, algorithms, programming languages, and computational systems. Some of the major subspecialties of computer science are algorithms and data structures, programming methodology, programming language design and implementation, software engineering, computer architecture, operating systems, database systems, networks and communications, parallel computing, distributed systems, human-computer interaction, artificial intelligence, secure and dependable systems, theory of computation, and computer graphics.

REVIEW

For the 2018 review cycle, seven educators and/or administrators across the State of Idaho reviewed 11 computer science textbooks. Contracts for these materials are effective October 18, 2018-December 31, 2024. For the final review results, please visit the [curricular materials webpage](#).

For Questions Contact

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