KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE REVIEW ITEM

Topic: Computer Science Program Update

Date: December 2023

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:

Kentucky recognizes the benefit of providing students with opportunities to engage in high-quality computer science instruction as a means to discover how computing and technology shape the world around them. Students interested in pursuing computer science coursework are able to develop fundamental skills essential to college and career paths; whereby, stimulating Kentucky's economy and workforce.

Significant efforts are underway to provide greater access and availability of computer science coursework for interested students throughout Kentucky. These efforts include continued networking with community partners, collaborating with schools and districts to support computer science initiatives, and the development of the Approval of Computer Science (ACS) Certificate which provides the certification requirements needed to teach computer science courses.

To support this work, the KDE continues to partner with AdvanceKentucky who serves as the Code.org Regional Partner for Kentucky and has since grown its services to include professional development for the Kentucky Computer Science Expansion Initiative. This initiative, created in collaboration between the College Board, Code.org, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), and AdvanceKY, has led to a dramatic increase in the number of computer science classes offered in Kentucky's middle and high schools.

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