weLEAD COMPUTER SCIENCE
KY VIRTUAL CAREER ACADEMY

2026-2027 School Year

CONNECTING KY STUDENTS TO THE FUTURE

Powered by a $3 million investment from the Kentucky General Assembly, **We Lead CS** is a first-of-its-kind, virtual computer science career academy. We prepare Kentucky high school students for high-wage careers in our technology-driven economy - many they can do virtually in their home communities. We enable districts to provide up to five computer science career pathways, student support services, and work based learning opportunities at a lower cost and without requirements for minimum or maximum enrollment.

Benefits for Districts

- WLCS focuses on student achievement on all 5 indicators for Postsecondary Readiness - increasing districts' performance in KY assessment/accountability.
- Synchronous, daily instruction from WLCS teachers.
- Tutoring and college/career advising.
- Curriculum and administration of industry certifications provided by WLCS.

No Cost for Students

- KHEAA provides students with the opportunity to utilize two Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarships (WRDC) for CTE courses each academic year. WLCS courses are eligible for WRDC to eliminate the tuition cost at KCTCS.
- All other fees are covered by WLCS.

Cost for Districts

- **$500 per student fee** for year-long Intro to Computer Programming course.
- **$250 per student fee** for a 3-hour (1) semester-long dual credit course.
- Other fees related to student enrollment and certification are covered by WLCS.

See next page for 2026-27 discounts available

VIRTUAL WORK BASED LEARNING

Our business partners include some of the largest tech employers in America, including 5/3 Bank, 84.51, GE Aviation, Great American Insurance, and Procter & Gamble. In partnership with Kentucky chambers of commerce, we're recruiting Kentucky companies to engage with students in the We Lead CS virtual work based learning program that includes:

VIRTUAL JOB SHADOWING   RESUME WRITING   MOCK JOB INTERVIEWS   PAID INTERNSHIPS

LINKEDIN NETWORKING   GITHUB TRAINING   PROJECT MANAGEMENT   NETWORKING

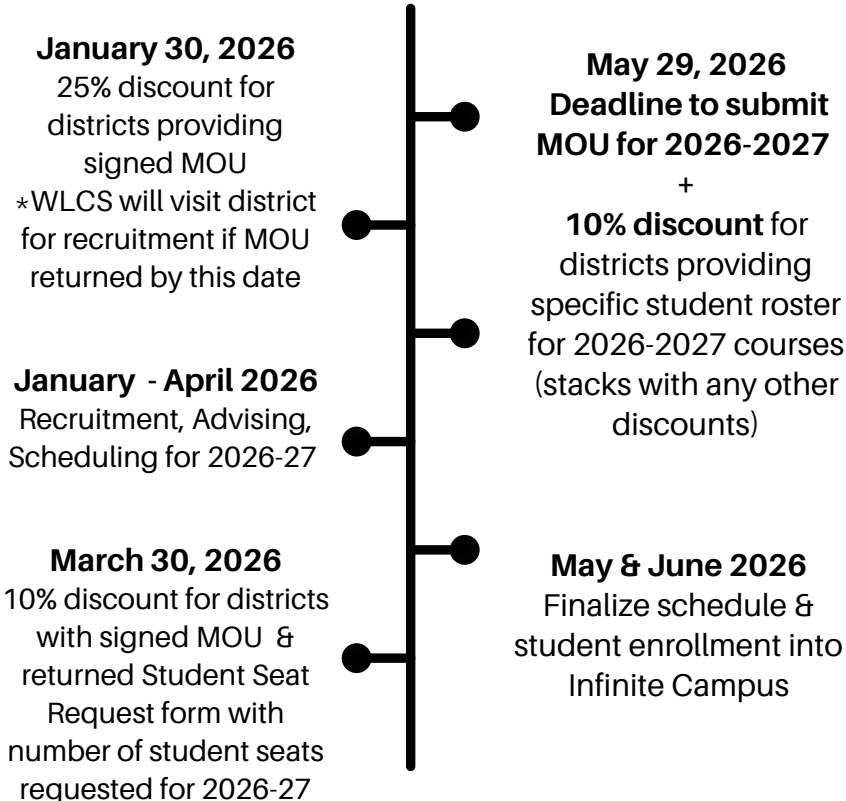**MORE INFORMATION: info@weleadcs.org**

DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS

- Assign a teacher or counselor in the high school responsible for student performance and participation in We Lead CS courses. *School contacts must attend a virtual orientation with the We Lead CS team to discuss how they will monitor students' performance and participation together.*
- Assign students a laptop or Chromebook that the students can take home for homework.
- Assign students headphones .
- Provide students access to Microsoft products.

WLCS Timeline for 2026-27 Enrollment

January 30, 2026
25% discount for districts providing signed MOU
*WLCS will visit district for recruitment if MOU returned by this date

January - April 2026
Recruitment, Advising, Scheduling for 2026-27

March 30, 2026
10% discount for districts with signed MOU & returned Student Seat Request form with number of student seats requested for 2026-27

May 29, 2026
Deadline to submit MOU for 2026-2027
+
10% discount for districts providing specific student roster for 2026-2027 courses (stacks with any other discounts)

May & June 2026
Finalize schedule & student enrollment into Infinite Campus

DUAL CREDIT

- Students will enroll for dual credit in the district's partner KCTCS community college.
- Districts must be approved at 50+ with SACS by January 2025 to offer Dual Credit in Fall 2025. *We Lead CS staff will assist districts and community colleges with this process in consultation with KCTCS.*
- We Lead CS staff will assist students with application for Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarships, if needed.

CAREER PATHWAYS

In 2026-27 WLCS will offer courses in five computer science career pathways approved by the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education:

- **Computer Programming** (CIP 11.0201.01)
- **Cybersecurity** (CIP 14.0902.00)
- **Data Science** (CIP 11.0802.00)
- **Network Administration** (CIP 11.0901.01)
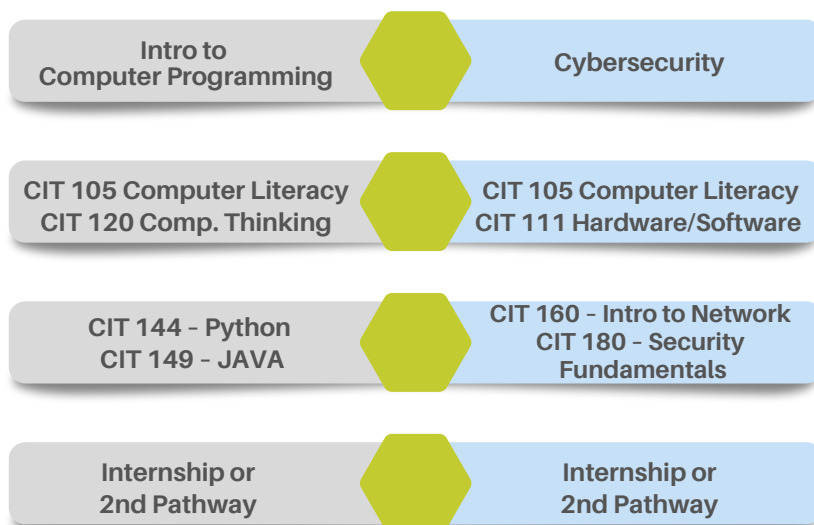- **Network Security** (CIP 11.1003.00)

INTRO to AI course also available for 2026-2027

We Lead CS will administer required End of Program Assessments. Scores will be reported to and are included in the student's home district accountability data.

COURSE SEQUENCE EXAMPLES

PROGRAMMING	NETWORK SECURITY
Intro to Computer Programming	Cybersecurity
CIT 105 Computer Literacy CIT 120 Comp. Thinking	CIT 105 Computer Literacy CIT 111 Hardware/Software
CIT 144 – Python CIT 149 – JAVA	CIT 160 – Intro to Network CIT 180 – Security Fundamentals
Internship or 2nd Pathway	Internship or 2nd Pathway

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KY'S TECH TALENT PIPELINE PROBLEM

Graduation rates are not keeping pace with job market demands.

We Lead CS Certifications for High Demand Industry

IC3 G6
Information Technology Specialist
Python, JAVA, Software
Development & HTML
} Computer Programming Stack

CompTIA A+
Information Technology Specialist
Network Security & Networking
} Network Security Stack

In 2023, Kentucky averaged
3,427
open computing jobs each month.

*code.org 2023 report

Computer Science jobs in KY pay an average annual wage of $77,189 per year.

That's $19,193 more than the $57,996 average annual wage for all KY jobs!

KY Stats Workforce Overview Report July 2024

**KY Senate President
Pro Tem David Givens**

"There's a gap between students hungry for coding, programming, computer science and curriculum that doesn't really provide opportunities to teach it. The business community needs that talent. We Lead CS will connect the dots by saying here is the curriculum and here are the skilled educators to teach it."
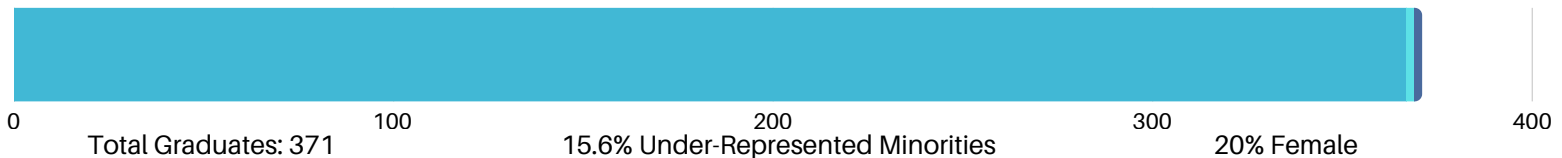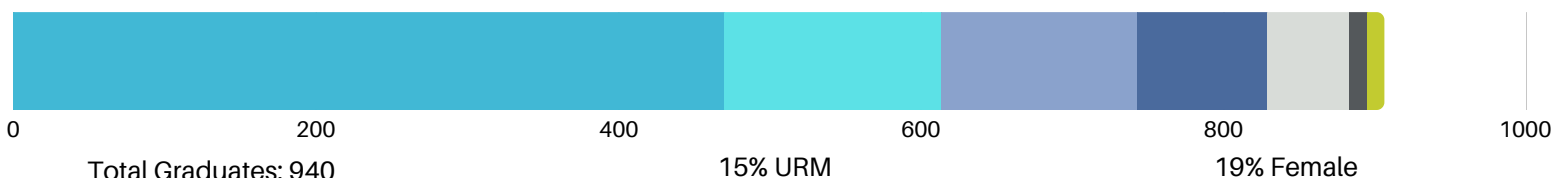
**Read more about us in
Building Kentucky**

Computer Science Associate Degrees

● Computer & Information Sciences   ● Computer Engineering Technology   ● Cybersecurity Defense Strategy/Policy

0   100   200   300   400

Total Graduates: 371   15.6% Under-Represented Minorities   20% Female

Computer Science Bachelor's Degrees

● Computer & Information Sciences   ● Information Technology   ● Computer Engineering & Computer Software Engineering

● Media Informatics   ● Computer Science   ● Computer Engineering Technologies   ● Other

0   200   400   600   800   1000

Total Graduates: 940   15% URM   19% Female

Council on Postsecondary Education Data Center - 2023-2024 Data