



FAQs for Computer Science Course-Specific Permits

1. When will the Computer Science Course-Specific Permits be required?

As advised in Dr. Mackey's memorandum of August 21, 2019, regarding [Computer Science Certificate Approaches \(FY19-2132\)](#) the course-specific permits will be required beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

2. Which computer science courses have a computer science course-specific permit?

The current courses for which a permit is available are:

- 220098 Computer Science SL, IB
- 220099 Computer Science HL, IB
- 520007 Computer Science A, AP
- 520018 Computer Science Principles, AP
- 520043 Exploring Computer Science
- 520045 Computer Science Discoveries
- 520046 Computer Science Essentials-PLTW
- 520050 Introduction to Computer Science-TEALS
- 520051 Cybersecurity-PLTW
- 520052 CS Makers
- 560029 App Creators-PLTW
- 560032 Computer Science for Innovators and Makers-PLTW

3. What type certification must an educator hold to be eligible to apply for a computer science course-specific permit?

The educator must hold a valid Professional Educator Certificate, a valid Professional Leadership Certificate, or at least a valid Bachelor's Equivalent 2 Career and Technical Certificate.

4. Can an educator holding a valid Professional Educator Certificate, a valid Professional Leadership Certificate, or at least a valid Bachelor's Equivalent 2 Career and Technical Certificate be issued more than one computer science course-specific permit?

Yes, if the course specific training is completed.

5. Can an educator holding only a valid Professional Educator Certificate for grades below 7 be issued a computer science course-specific permit to teach the middle school or high school courses?

Yes, if the course specific training is completed.

6. Can an educator holding only a valid Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field (PCTF) endorsed in a teaching field other than Computer Science be issued a computer science course-specific permit, if trained?

No, the educator must hold a valid Professional Educator Certificate, a valid Professional Leadership Certificate, or at least a valid Bachelor's Equivalent 2 Career and Technical Certificate.



7. *Can an educator holding only a valid Interim Employment Certificate (IEC) endorsed in a teaching field other than Computer Science be issued a computer science course-specific permit, if trained?*

No, the educator must hold a valid Professional Educator Certificate, a valid Professional Leadership Certificate, or at least a valid Bachelor's Equivalent 2 Career and Technical Certificate.

8. *Can an educator holding only a valid Emergency Certificate be issued a computer science course-specific permit, if trained?*

No, the educator must hold a valid Professional Educator Certificate, a valid Professional Leadership Certificate, or at least a valid Bachelor's Equivalent 2 Career and Technical Certificate.

9. *Can an educator holding only a valid Career and Technical Education Temporary Certificate be issued a computer science course-specific permit, if trained?*

No, the educator must hold a valid Professional Educator Certificate, a valid Professional Leadership Certificate, or at least a valid Bachelor's Equivalent 2 Career and Technical Certificate.

10. *Can an educator holding only a valid Degree Equivalent Career and Technical Certificate be issued a computer science course-specific permit, if trained?*

Yes, the educator must hold at least a valid Bachelor's Equivalent 2 Career and Technical Certificate.

11. *Can an individual holding only a valid Adjunct Instructor Permit endorsed in Technical Education: Computer Science teach the computer science courses that require a course-specific permit?*

Yes.

12. *Can an educator holding a valid Secondary Professional Educator Certificate endorsed in Computer Science teach the computer science courses that require a course-specific permit?*

Yes, the individual would be properly certified.

13. *Can an educator holding a valid Degree Equivalent Technical Education Career and Technical Certificate endorsed in Technical Education: Computer Science teach the computer science courses that require a course-specific permit?*

Yes, the individual would be properly certified. Note that the Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 1 Career and Technical Certificate, valid for at least two scholastic years, is **nonrenewable**. The educator must complete requirements for at least the Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 2 Career and Technical Certificate endorsed in Technical Education: Computer Science, which is a renewable certificate. The educator must apply for, and be issued, at least the Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 2 Career and Technical Certificate endorsed in Technical Education: Computer Science in order to continue to be properly certified to teach the computer science courses listed in FAQ #2.



14. *Can an educator holding only a valid Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field (PCTF) endorsed in Computer Science teach the computer science courses that require a course-specific permit?*

Yes, the individual would be properly certified.

15.a. *How recent must an educator have completed the training in order to be issued a valid permit to teach the computer science course for which they were trained?*

The training for a course-specific permit must have been completed within 3 years (36 months) immediately prior to receipt of the permit application in the Educator Certification Section.

15.b. *How can an educator who completed training more than 3 years ago be able to use that training?*

The educator must have taught the corresponding computer science course at least one time within the 2 years (24 months) immediately prior to receipt of the permit application in the Educator Certification Section.

16. *Will educators have to submit a request for the permit?*

After the training has been completed, the employing county or city school system will submit the application to the Educator Certification Section requesting the computer science course-specific permit(s).

17. *How will an educator/school system know that a permit has been issued?*

The document reflecting the permit will be mailed to the county or city school system that requested the permit. The permit may also be verified at [ALSDE Public Portal](#).

18. *Will yearly (or semi-yearly) training be required to maintain the permit?*

No.

19. *Once an educator receives a permit, how long is it valid?*

The computer science course-specific permit is valid from the date of issuance through the following June 30th and for the next three consecutive scholastic years. For example, if the permit is issued on September 1, 2020, the permit will be valid from September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024.

20. *Can a permit be renewed? If so, how many times?*

The computer science course-specific permits are **nonrenewable**.

21. *Will an educator holding a computer science course-specific permit need to take Praxis test 5652 Computer Science at some time in the future to continue teaching the course(s) that have a course-specific permit?*

Prior to the June 30 expiration date of the computer science course-specific permit, the educator will have options to meet requirements for obtaining the proper certification needed to continue to teach the course(s). See FAQs #22 and #23 below for the available options.



22. If an educator holds a valid Professional Educator Certificate or Professional Leadership Certificate, has been teaching a computer science course which now has a course-specific permit, and wishes to continue to teach that course, what options are available to meet requirements for the proper certification needed to continue to teach the course?

- a. Option 1. *The educator is required to have been issued a computer science course-specific permit for this option.*
 - Verify having met requirements for, and be issued, the computer science course-specific permit; and
 - Prior to the June 30 expiration date of the computer science course-specific permit, attain a passing score on Praxis test 5652 Computer Science and apply for, and be issued, the Class B Secondary Professional Educator Certificate endorsed in Computer Science.
- b. Option 2. *The educator is not required to have been issued a computer science course-specific permit for this option.*
 - Verify a passing score on Praxis test 5652 Computer Science and apply for, and be issued, the Class B Secondary Professional Educator Certificate endorsed in Computer Science.
- c. Option 3. *The educator is not required to have been issued a computer science course-specific permit for this option.*
 - Verify having met requirements for, and be issued, at least the Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 1 Career and Technical Certificate endorsed in Technical Education: Computer Science. This option requires the educator to attain a passing score on one of the appropriate occupational proficiencies for Technical Education: Computer Science. The approved ALSDE occupational proficiency list may be obtained at [Approved Occupational Proficiency](#).

23. If an educator holds only at least a valid Bachelor's Equivalent 2 Career and Technical Certificate, has been teaching a computer science course which now has a course-specific permit, and wishes to continue to teach that course, what options are available to meet requirements for the proper certification needed to continue to teach the course?

- a. Option 1. *The educator is required to have been issued a computer science course-specific permit for this option.*
 - Verify having met requirements for, and be issued, the computer science course-specific permit; and
 - Prior to the June 30 expiration date of the computer science course-specific permit, attain a passing score on one of the appropriate occupational proficiencies for Technical Education: Computer Science and apply for, and be issued, the Degree Equivalent Technical Education Career and Technical Certificate endorsed in Technical Education: Computer Science. The approved ALSDE occupational proficiency list may be obtained at [Approved Occupational Proficiency](#).
- b. Option 2. *The educator is not required to have been issued a computer science course-specific permit for this option.*



- Verify having met requirements for, and be issued, at least the Bachelor's Equivalent Technical Education 2 Career and Technical Certificate endorsed in Technical Education: Computer Science. This option requires the educator to attain a passing score on one of the appropriate occupational proficiencies for Technical Education: Computer Science. The approved ALSDE occupational proficiency list may be obtained at [Approved Occupational Proficiency](#).
- c. Option 3. *The educator is not required to have been issued a computer science course-specific permit for this option.*
- Complete requirements of the Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field (PCTF) Approach in the teaching field of Computer Science and apply for, and be issued, the Class B Secondary Professional Educator Certificate in Computer Science. The PCTF Approach in the teaching field of Computer Science may be obtained at [PCTF Computer Science](#).
 - One requirement for issuance of the first PCTF, valid for one scholastic year, is the educator must hold at least a bachelor's degree from a senior institution that was regionally accredited at the time the degree was earned and the overall grade point average (GPA) of the degree must meet the GPA requirement of the PCTF Approach.
 - A second requirement for issuance of the first PCTF endorsed in Computer Science is a passing score on Praxis test 5652 Computer Science.

24. *For teachers with valid certification in Math or Science or Career Tech fields, the listing of courses on the ALSDE Certification Search web page (Courses tab) currently shows them as properly certified to teach the computer science courses which have a computer science course-specific permit. Will the listings on the Certification Search web page (Courses tab) be revised now that there are more specific requirements than just being certified in Math or Science or Career Tech fields?*

Yes, the ALSDE will revise the proper certification requirements for each computer science course that has a course-specific permit. The revisions will display in the Courses tab in late July 2020.

25. *The Act which provides for the creation of computer science course specific permits refers to career and technical certificates by stating "Career and technical education certificate options shall remain in place...". Does this mean that an educator certified in Business Education can teach computer science course-specific permit courses, even if they have not been trained?*

No, educators holding a valid Professional Educator Certificate in business education, business/marketing education, business administration, and/or marketing education who wish to teach computer science courses that have a computer science course-specific permit will need to meet one of the available options shown in FAQ #22.

26. *I have a question about computer science course-specific permits that is not answered above. Where can I send my question?*

You may send your question to this email address CS4Alabama@ALSDE.edu. The question and answer may be added to this FAQ document.