



# Arkansas Department of Education

Johnny Key, Commissioner

*Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education*

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## **Harvard to Provide Computer Science Professional Development for Arkansas Teachers in Summer 2018**

**LITTLE ROCK** — The Arkansas Department of Education Office of Computer Science is pleased to announce that the Harvard CS50 AP team is coming to Arkansas!

The Harvard CS50 AP team has committed to, for the first time ever, providing its College Board Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles endorsed professional development away from their home campus.

"CS50 is very excited to be working with Arkansas this summer to help train teachers and help bring computer science to students across the state!" said David Malan, professor of the practice of computer science at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

"This is another example of Arkansas leading the nation as we partner with a respected, high-profile organization to advance Gov. Asa Hutchinson's coding initiative and benefit students and teachers in Arkansas," ADE Commissioner Johnny Key said.

This professional development session will be available at no cost to any Arkansas teacher; however, space is limited. The training will take place during the summer of 2018 at the Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative in Plumerville, Ark. The week-long training will include the three-day Harvard CS50 AP endorsed training and two days of computer science and PRAXIS preparation training provided by Arkansas computer science specialists.

The Harvard CS50 AP program is classified as an endorsed provider of training and curriculum by the College Board for its AP Computer Science Principles course; therefore, teachers completing the full five-day training will be eligible to immediately receive the necessary temporary approvals to teach AP Computer Science Principles and various other ADE-approved computer science courses.

During the training, teachers also will receive additional support in preparing for the Computer Science PRAXIS exam. Passing this exam is necessary to gain the Computer Science (528) endorsement on their Arkansas educator's license, which will be required for all high-school level computer science teachers beginning in the 2021-2022 school year.

Date selection is taking place and will be announced via ADE Commissioner's Memo and posted as finalized at <https://goo.gl/Lp9A87>.

The Harvard CS50 AP program is an extension of the nationally-recognized Harvard CS50 course program, which is the most popular fall course for "graduate students, non-degree students, cross-registered students, visiting undergraduates and Harvard employees" at Harvard University, according to *The Harvard Crimson* (<http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2017/9/11/course-enrollment-2017/>).

More information about the Harvard CS50 AP program is available at <https://ap.cs50.net/>.

In addition, the Harvard team is hosting a CS50 Fair that will be broadcast live from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. December 8. More information about the fair and the CS50 program can be found at <https://cs50.harvard.edu/>.

### Computer Science Education Week

December 4-10, 2017, is Computer Science Education Week. Arkansas will release a new computer science-related announcement each day. For a full listing of announcements as they are made, please visit the newly-redesigned ADE Computer Science webpages at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/special-projects/arkansas-computer-science-initiative>.

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