

**Governor's Council on Women and Girls
Subcommittee on Education and STEAM
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 3:00pm
Virtual Meeting – Microsoft TEAMS**

I. Welcome Remarks + Introductions

Tracy Opoku, General Counsel to the Lt. Governor, started the meeting at 3:01pm. Everyone in the meeting introduced themselves.

II. Presentation: Proposal to Fund Computer Science Education in CT, Hannah Weissman, Code.org

Hannah Weissman, from Code.org presented on a proposal to fund computer science (computer science) in the state of Connecticut. She emphasized that computer science currently exists only as an elective in many schools, limiting student access to essential problem-solving and critical thinking skills needed in today's workforce. While most Connecticut high schools now offer a CS course, only about 84% do so, and there remains a significant gap in student participation, particularly among girls and Black students. The economic implications were highlighted, noting that there are over 5,000 open computing jobs in the state, many of which extend beyond traditional tech roles and offer higher salaries.

Weissman also noted that while Connecticut has made strong progress without dedicated state funding—largely due to the initiative of individual districts—the state has reached a ceiling in its growth. To address this, a bill (HB 852) has been proposed to appropriate \$930,000 to an existing fund created in 2019 for CS teacher professional development, which has yet to receive any funding. This investment, modeled on successful initiatives in other states like Massachusetts and Maryland, would provide districts with the necessary resources to support teacher training and ensure all students have equitable access to quality CS education. The funding is intended to be a one-time or limited-term investment rather than a recurring expenditure.

III. Computing Challenge 2025 Update

Jennifer Michelek provided an update on the 2025 Computing Challenge. The 2025 challenge project management is run by ReadyCT. They have been encouraging training within schools and teachers with the hope that there's a better incentive. Currently, the number of submissions is at 185, less than the 188 of this time last year. However, the numbers are way over on Development, which is the most rigorous part of the challenge.

The Recognition Event with the Lt. Governor will be shifting to focus on the students and showcasing the work they have done

IV. Other Updates + Announcements

There were no announcements.

V. Upcoming ED and STEAM Subcommittee Meetings

- May 19th, 2025, at 3:00pm on Microsoft TEAMS
- August 26th, 2025, at 3:00pm on Microsoft TEAMS
- November 12th, 2025, at 3:00pm on Microsoft TEAMS

VI. Adjourn

Tracy Opoku ended the meeting.