

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—
S.P. 60 - L.D. 127

Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Program To Provide Grants for Professional Development in Computer Science Instruction

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the pilot program to provide professional development grants for computer science instruction is established by this resolve as a 2-year pilot program; and

Whereas, the pilot program must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the pilot program may be nearly completed so that a meaningful report can be submitted in time for the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Commissioner of Education to establish pilot program to provide professional development grants for computer science instruction. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Education shall establish a pilot program to award grants for the provision of professional development in computer science instruction for a period of 2 years. The Commissioner of Education may accept donations from outside sources and state and federal funding to accomplish the purposes of this resolve. The Commissioner of Education shall distribute grant funds across all counties in the State equally among prekindergarten to grade 5, grade 6 to grade 8 and grade 9 to grade 12.

Sec. 2. Application. Resolved: That a local education agency may submit an application for grant funds under the pilot program pursuant to section 1. The Commissioner of Education shall give priority to applicants that:

1. Do not currently offer computer science learning opportunities;
2. Serve socioeconomically disadvantaged school districts;
3. Prioritize student populations traditionally underrepresented in computer science;

4. Demonstrate a commitment to pursuing high-quality educator professional development that emphasizes integration of computer science into other course work and curricula or establishes or expands access to courses that offer college credit and other certificates of value, or both; and

5. Collaborate or partner with other entities, including but not limited to other local education agencies, the business community, nonprofit organizations and private entities.

Sec. 3. Use of funds. Resolved: That a local education agency that receives a grant award during the pilot program under section 1 must use the funds only for high-quality, teacher-developed or teacher-led professional development for prekindergarten to grade 12 computer science pedagogy and content.

Sec. 4. Evaluation; annual submissions. Resolved: That each local education agency that receives a grant under the pilot program under section 1 shall engage in evaluation activities including interviews or surveys on the process and effect and outcomes of the professional development provided with grant funds, participate in a community of educators engaged in similar work and annually for the duration of the grant submit to the Department of Education a report or other product that showcases learning achieved through the professional development and that includes a reflective narrative of the professional development process. The Department of Education shall compile the submissions and make them available for educators across the State.

Sec. 5. Fund established. Resolved: That the Professional Development Grant Pilot Program Fund is established as a nonlapsing fund under the Department of Education for the purpose of receiving funds from state, federal and other sources, including donations from private citizens, corporations and entities for the purposes of this resolve. The department shall distribute any available funds in the fund to support the purposes described in this resolve. Upon distribution of all the funds, the fund is dissolved.

Sec. 6. Report to Legislature. Resolved: That, no later than January 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Education shall submit a report regarding the pilot program pursuant to this resolve and make recommendations, including any suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The joint standing committee may report out legislation on the subject matter of the report to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Professional Development Grant Pilot Program N342

Initiative: Provides funds in fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23 only for a 2-year pilot program that provides grants to local education agencies for professional development in computer science instruction.

GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$50,000	\$50,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$50,000	\$50,000

Professional Development Grant Pilot Program Fund N355

Initiative: Provides base allocations for a 2-year pilot program that provides grants to local education agencies for professional development in computer science instruction to authorize the expenditure of funds in the event funds are received from federal funding sources.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500

Professional Development Grant Pilot Program Fund N355

Initiative: Provides base allocations for a 2-year pilot program that provides grants to local education agencies for professional development in computer science instruction to authorize the expenditure of funds in the event funds are received from outside funding sources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2021-22	2022-23
GENERAL FUND	\$50,000	\$50,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500	\$500
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$51,000	\$51,000

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.