2026-2027 Computer Science Courses Satisfying Middle School Offering Requirements

Pursuant to SL2023-132, the following elective middle school courses would satisfy the requirement for a Public School Unit to offer an elective introductory Computer Science course in middle school that surveys the field of Computer Science effective school year 2026-2027:

Course Code	Course Title
CY04	**Digital Literacy (NEW)**
CY13	**Apple: Everyone Can Code – Puzzles (NEW)**
CY14	**Apple: Everyone Can Code – Adventures (NEW)**
CY20	Computer Science Discoveries I
CY21	Computer Science Discoveries II
CY22	Computer Science Discoveries III
CY30	Coding in Minecraft - Introductory
CY31	Coding in Minecraft - Intermediate
CY32	Coding in Minecraft - Advanced
CY40	Engineering: Exploring Technology I
CY41	Engineering: Exploring Technology II
CY42	Engineering: Invention and Innovation I
CY43	Engineering: Invention and Innovation II
CY44	Engineering: Technological Systems I
CY45	Engineering: Technological Systems II
CY60	PLTW Gateway: Design and Modeling
CY61	PLTW Gateway: Automation and Robotics
CY62	PLTW Gateway: App Creators
CY63	PLTW Gateway Comp Sci Innovators and Makers
CY64	PLTW Gateway: Energy and the Environment
CY65	PLTW Gateway: Flight and Space
CY67	PLTW Gateway: Magic of Electrons
CY68	PLTW Gateway: Green Architecture
CY90	**Exploring Computer Science (updated standards)**
CY92	**Exploring Robotics (updated standards)**
CY95	**Exploring Digital Arts (updated standards)**

High School Courses Eligible for Middle School[1]

Students may complete one of the approved high school computer science courses while in middle school to satisfy the Computer Science (CS) graduation requirement established under state legislation.

Proof of Learning (POL) Implementation

A Proof of Learning (POL) must be administered for any approved high school course offered in middle school. The POL ensures that students demonstrate mastery of the required course standards.

Course Coding Guidance

Public School Units (PSUs) must use the course code that includes a "Y" in the sixth digit to identify one of the approved high school courses designated for this purpose. This coding structure differentiates the approved courses that may be offered to middle school students.

Scheduling and Instructional Fidelity

The North Carolina State Board of Education does not have a policy regarding required seat time for students. However, PSUs must schedule these high school courses within the middle school instructional day in a manner that allows students to meet course standards with fidelity and complete the aligned Proof of Learning.

Credit Designation

Students who successfully complete a high school course while enrolled in middle school shall receive high school credit for the course, consistent with State Board of Education Policy CCRE-001. The grade earned shall not be included in the calculation of the student's high school grade point average (GPA) or class rank. Completion of any course identified on the approved list will satisfy the Computer Science (CS) middle school course offering and high school graduation requirement in accordance with G.S. 115C-12(9d).

Course List:

Course Code	Course Title	Proof of Learning (POL)
CA10	**Artificial Intelligence (NEW)**	Credential – *Generative AI Foundations*
CA21	**Robotics I (NEW)**	Local
CD10	**Adobe Visual Design I (NEW)**	Credentials – Adobe Certified Professional – Illustrator **AND** Photoshop
CS20	**Computer Science I (NEW)**	Performance-based Measurement
CD20	3D Modeling and Animation I	Local

[1] G.S. 115C-12(9d); SBE Policy CCRE-001; NC DPI Course Code Master List Guidance.

CP05	Coding in Minecraft – Expert Coding	Credential *Coding in Minecraft JavaScript Expert Coding* **OR** *Coding in Minecraft Python Expert Coding*
CP20	Develop in Swift Explorations	Local
CS10	Introduction to Computer Science	CTE State Assessment
CS30	Introduction to Data Science	Local
CT10	Technology, Engineering, and Design	CTE State Assessment

Review Process

Computer Science is not confined to coding or programming; it is a discipline that intersects every career pathway and field of study. Its principles extend across all content areas, from health sciences to the arts, and from agriculture to business. As the state continues to expand access to computer science education, it is essential that the review process reflects this interdisciplinary nature.

For the past two years, NCDPI conducted a review of courses to determine alignment with the core computer science concepts identified in the North Carolina Computer Science Standards. The review focused on traditional computer science concepts, including the impacts of computing, algorithms and programming, computing systems, networks, the internet, and data analytics. Courses were considered aligned if at least 80% of their content focused on three or more of these core concepts.

While this initial review provided a consistent foundation for implementation, it did not fully account for the cross-cutting nature of computer science.

For the 2026–2027 school year, the review process was broadened to align with the topics, pillars, and dispositions outlined in the new Computer Science Framework developed by the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA). This expanded approach better reflects the interdisciplinary reach of computer science and its relevance across all Career and Technical Education (CTE) career clusters and academic disciplines.

Through this refined review process, all students, regardless of location or PSU size, have access to courses that prepare them to think critically, solve problems creatively, and succeed in a digital world. Courses on this list cannot count as an English, mathematics, science, or social studies credit.

A course will be considered eligible if it addresses the following principles of computer science:

- Algorithms
- Artificial Intelligence
- Computational Thinking
- Computing Applications Development
- Computing Systems
- Cybersecurity
- Data and Analysis
- Digital Collaboration Tools
- Digital Literacy (middle grades only)
- Emerging Technology
- Ethics
- Impacts of Computing/Technology
- Information Technology
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Machine Learning
- Networking Technology
- Physical Computing
- Programming

Updates to the list of computer science courses satisfying graduation requirements will be presented to the State Board of Education each year for approval.