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CS4RI Implementation Grants

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is requesting CS4RI Implementation Grant applications from interested local education agencies to support the implementation of a comprehensive K-12 Computer Science plan for all students, grades K-12.

Application materials can be downloaded from the CS4RI website at www.cs4ri.org/district-grants. The Rhode Island Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject, without prejudice, any or all submissions to promote the best interest of the State of Rhode Island.

Section I - Introduction and Overview

CS4RI Implementation Grants are part of Rhode Island’s larger statewide career education strategy: Prepare Rhode Island (PrepareRI). PrepareRI is the statewide career education initiative that unites many partners — including Rhode Island government, private industry leaders, the public education system, universities, and non-profits — around a common strategic plan to improve youth career readiness. PrepareRI began in 2016 after Rhode Island was awarded a New Skills for Youth grant from JPMorgan Chase and the Council of Chief State School Officers.

PrepareRI aims to close the gap between what students learn in school and what is needed for future success in high-demand jobs. The initiative was built on the belief that all young people, regardless of their previous background or intended career, will need some form of postsecondary credential and practical work experience to be successful.

PrepareRI’s goals for 2020 are:

- All career pathway programs will be aligned to Rhode Island’s high-demand career fields
- All high school students will graduate with college credit or an industry credential
- All high school students will have access to a work-based learning experience, such as an internship in a relevant career field
- All students will have career awareness and exploration opportunities beginning in elementary and middle school, and Individualized Learning Plans based on their unique strengths and interests

To learn more about PrepareRI, visit www.prepare-ri.org.

About CS4RI

CS4RI (Computer Science for Rhode Island) is a focused initiative to bring high quality computer science (CS) learning experiences to all students. It represents a partnership between Rhode Island state government, the Rhode Island Department of Education, K-12 schools, higher education, private industry, and non-profits across the Rhode Island. Launched in 2016 by the Office of Governor Gina Raimondo with the aim of having computer science taught in every public school, CS4RI worked with stakeholders across the state to reach that goal in December 2017.

Today, CS4RI focuses on building educator capacity by providing access to quality computer science professional development opportunities; developing rigorous and sustainable K-12 pathways, supporting districts with implementation strategies and resources; and accelerating demand and
momentum for CS education. CS4RI continues to prioritize and identify broadening participation as a major target.

CS4RI partners with CS content providers to offer schools – at no cost to districts - a menu of CS options to meet the needs of their students including Code.org, Project Lead the Way, Bootstrap, Brown University, the University of Rhode Island, and Microsoft TEALS. CS4RI also has strong connections with industry partners who provide additional funds, volunteer mentors, and CS expertise.

CS4RI continues to strive to make CS part of every Rhode Island student’s educational experience. To learn more about CS4RI, visit www.CS4RI.org.

Additional CS4RI Opportunities

CS4RI hosted a series of two-day SCRIPT workshops in the summer of 2018 and again in January 2019 that guided participants in the creation of personalized, district-specific CS4RI implementation plans through collaborative self-assessment of local needs, capacity, and goals for computer science education. Teams from 20 districts participated in this hands-on, active participant process and created frameworks implementation plans for their districts.

In-depth Implementation Workshops offered in the winter through the spring of 2019, followed the SCRIPT workshops supporting participants by facilitating a deeper delve into the standards implementation toolkit, aligning CS professional development decisions, incorporating broadening participation in CS plans and strategies, and providing an opportunity to crowdsource learning and share strategies. Twelve districts with over 55 total participants are engaged in these in-depth workshops working towards a full CS implementation plan for all students.

Section II - CS4RI Implementation Grants

A goal of CS4RI’s strategic plan is to support Rhode Island schools and districts in creating a comprehensive K-12 Computer Science pathway for their students aligned to the Rhode Island K-12 Computer Science Education Standards. As part of the pathway, Computer Science pathways and CTE programs should be also aligned to the CTE Program Industry Specific Standards. Schools are currently in various stages of implementing these K-12 CS pathways. This grant is intended to provide support and resources to complete a comprehensive implementation plan for all students.

Purpose

CS Implementation grants are intended to accelerate the integration of computer science activities with existing learning experiences in elementary and middle schools (grades K-8) and increase in-depth computer science courses at the middle and high school levels (6-12). RIDE will award grants on a competitive basis to local educational agencies (LEAs) for K-12 pathway planning and implementation activities in an effort to create a comprehensive plan.

Successful CS Implementation grant proposals will: (Additional details may be found in the Application Requirements section below.)

- Articulate a clear vision statement;
- Describe district impact of creating a K-12 CS Implementation Plan;
Identify current and anticipated CS Team Members representing all stakeholders including district, school and CS team leadership, educators, school guidance counselors, library media specialists, students, families, industry partners, community members, etc.;

Identify current and anticipated partnerships with CS4RI matrix partners;

Provide a summary of the current state of CS implementation in each of the following areas:

- Materials and Curriculum Selection, Content Refinement and RI K-12 CS Education Standards
- Leadership Engagement
- Teacher Capacity and Development
- Industry and Partner Opportunities and Integration
- Community Involvement

Identify short and long-term challenges and provide a prioritized list of areas to be addressed with grant funds;

Provide a budget with justification for each item;

Priority will be given to grant proposals that

- Demonstrate plans that address equity of access for all students to K-12 CS pathways;
- Include industry partnerships and community involvement;
- Demonstrate need based on Free / Reduced Lunch data.

The plan developed with grant funds are intended to be models for continued use in districts across the state. As such, plans will be publicly shared and accessible.

Section III – Application Process, Submission and Evaluation

Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant Application Release:</td>
<td>Friday, March 1, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for Application Submission:</td>
<td>9:00am – Monday, March 18, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>RIDE Announces Grant Winners:</td>
<td>Thursday, March 21, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grantee Planning Time:</td>
<td>Spring 2019 – Summer 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grantee Provides Final Deliverables:</td>
<td>Friday, August 16, 2019</td>
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Grant Duration and Amount

Grant requests can be up to $10,000 per LEA. The majority of expected grants will be awarded in March 2019 and range from $2000 - $8000. Grants can be used to offset school and partner expenses, as well as activity materials. No more than 10% of the budget may be for equipment. RIDE expects that the majority of the funding will be for personnel time to create and/or implement the comprehensive K-12 computer science district pathway plan. (e.g. Substitute/teacher pay freeing time for the team members to focus on the development of the plan) RIDE expects to award between 5 – 15 CS Implementation Grants; the total number of grants awarded will be determined by the number of LEAs that apply and meet the criteria.
All grant expenditures must occur by **August 16, 2019** with full reporting of the expenditures to CS4RI along with the comprehensive K-12 district implementation plan.

**Eligible Entities**
Rhode Island public LEAs are eligible to apply. LEAs that apply require sign-off from the superintendent or the equivalent.

**Application Requirements**
Grant Materials and the grant Application Form are available at [www.cs4ri.org/district-grants](http://www.cs4ri.org/district-grants). Grant Applications **must be submitted online by 9:00am – Monday, March 18, 2019.**

Grant applications should include:

1. Provide a narrative as a PDF document of no more than 10 pages, 1” margins of at least 12pt font that addresses:
   a. Your district’s vision for computer science education pathways
   b. Your district’s current and past efforts in computer science education planning (e.g. attending CS4RI SCRIPT workshops)
   c. A district summary of the current state of CS implementation. Utilize the [SCRIPT Rubric](http://www.cs4ri.org/district-grants) to address the various elements.
   d. How your district will use the funds to develop an implementation plan that addresses:
      i. Computer Science Materials and Curriculum Selection and Content Refinement aligned with the [RI K-12 CS Education Standards](http://www.cs4ri.org/district-grants)
      ii. Teacher Capacity and Development
      iii. Industry and Partner Opportunities and Integration
      iv. Community Involvement
      v. Broadening participation of typically underrepresented groups in computer science including females, racial minorities, students with disabilities, and English language learners, etc.

2. Provide a budget in a separate document showing how the funds will be used. Some expected categories are:
   a. Substitute pay to free up time to allow teachers to work on the plan
   b. Stipends to teachers and administrators for work outside of school hours on the plan
   c. Equipment and supplies (at most 10% of the budget)

   The budget must include the line item, amount, short description and justification of the line item.

3. A signed letter of application from the LEA superintendent or the equivalent.

The form to upload the grant application is at available at [http://www.cs4ri.org/district-grants](http://www.cs4ri.org/district-grants).
Grant Deliverables
CS4RI Implementation Grant Expenditure Report and a draft K-12 Computer Science Pathway District Implementation plan that addresses the following elements. Utilize the SCRIPT Rubric to help in developing a comprehensive plan.

Vision & Goals
- Purpose of the Plan
- Implementation Plan Goals
- Data Driven Decision Making
- Program Evaluation & Refinement
- Implementation Timeline
- Budget

Casting a Team
- District & School Leadership
  (i.e. - District CS Lead, Curriculum Coordinator, Principal)
- Educator Representation
  (i.e. – Middle/High School CS Leads, Library Media Specialists, Special Educators, School Counselors, Data Specialists)
- Industry & Community Partnerships
  (i.e. - Business/Industry, Higher Education, State Government)
- Capacity, Roles & Responsibilities

Designing the Student Experience
- Materials and Curriculum
- Content Refinement
- Course Scheduling (Elementary, Middle, High School)
- Pathway Support Systems & Structures
Designing the Educator Experience
- Educator Professional Development Plan
- Educator Support Systems & Structures
- Teacher Evaluation Supports
- Professional Learning Unit Plan

Culture & Communication
- Broadening Participation
- Recruiting & Retention Plans
- Communications Strategies (Students, Families, Industry Partners, & Other Stakeholders)
- School Counselor Supports & Engagement Plans