



May 31, 2006

The Texas Education Agency  
GERALDINE MILLER, Chair SBOE  
1701 N. Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas, 78701

Re: Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 19, Part II Chapter 74. Curriculum Requirements.

Dear Ms. Miller,

I am writing on behalf of the Computer Science Teachers Association to support the proposed amendment 19 TAC §74.61 to add computer science as an option for the fourth year of science and math beginning with school year 2007-2008.

National research clearly shows that while the need for highly-skilled technology workers is growing, the number of students studying computer science is dropping precipitously. This is creating serious concerns about the U.S.'s ability to compete in the global economy.

This pipeline problem begins in high schools, where students, under increasingly pressure to study only required subjects, have no room in their schedules to take elective courses such as computer science. This problem is doubly troublesome for minority students who are more likely to rely on NCAA scholarships, since the NCAA will not accept computer science courses unless they have been delegated as fulfilling an advanced math or science credit.

The standards for computer science education in Texas are rigorous and completely consistent with the assignment of either a math or science credit, and computer science, with its foundation in algorithmic problem solving, truly is a mathematically-based science.

We would therefore urge you to support this amendment.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely

Chris Stephenson  
Executive Director, CSTA

