

Elementary CS and CET Questions

Question	Answer
What about homeschooled students?	We encourage all students in Nevada to study computer science and computational thinking following the approved K-12 Computer Science Standards in order to provide them with the necessary skills to ensure future success in a career path of their choice, virtually all careers. However, the educational plan of a homeschooled student is up to the child's parent inclusive of the subject areas listed in NRS 388D.050.
Elementary: What is to be taught in the class?	In elementary school, the standards state that students may start with unplugged activities, essentially talk about concepts of computers without programming. By the end of elementary school, students increasingly move toward using computational concepts on computers.
Elementary: Will a computer lab/room be required and should it be?	The standards do not require a specific lab room be used. The teacher can decide how best to serve their students.
Elementary: What programs should be taught? - computer literacy AND computer science/computational thinking Is there a computer language they should be teaching?	The standards provide broad leeway for what teachers use in terms of programs. From a computer literacy perspective, using the <i>productivity tools</i> such as spreadsheets or word processing systems is rational. For computer science, teachers may choose any age appropriate programming languages or technologies that they think will best serve their students.
Elementary: What training is available to the instructor?	The state Regional Professional Development Program is ready and available to provide training in computer science education for teachers at all grade levels. Contact Frank Mathews or Glenn Krieger for more information on available trainings. State trainings will begin Spring, 2018.
Elementary: Will the instructor need to be	Elementary licenses cover all subjects, so, an

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<p>licensed as a teacher, CTE, para, or have a certificate of some kind?</p>	<p>additional endorsement is not needed, however teacher professional development is recommended.</p>
<p>Before beginning 6th grade, all students are required to receive instruction in computer education and technology as approved by the state board, so does this mean schools could address all of the standards, in say, one special class at one grade level?</p>	<p>How this requirement is implemented is up to either the district or each individual school and their resources - teachers, computers, lab time, etc.</p> <p><u>Computer Education Technology:</u></p> <p>Productivity tools - Some elementary schools have special rotations, such as art and PE each week. If a school chooses to incorporate a rotation to cover the computer education and technology requirements then that would be appropriate. The goal is that when our students are taking their SBAC's and other online exams, that we are testing them on their content knowledge and not on their computer skills or lack thereof. This lack of computer usage skills for <i>some</i> students is preventing an equitable testing environment for <i>all</i> students that must be corrected. This instruction prior to 6th grade will also help our students be more successful in middle school, entering with prior knowledge in technology usage.</p> <p>Computer Science - Elementary schools should incorporate the computer science standards within each classroom, since they tie in with other NVACS's The critical thinking, problem solving, and computational thinking skills our students will acquire over time through these standards will help them be more successful in all subject areas. <i>Equity of access to all students should be the priority for CS.</i></p>