

ALTERNATIVE DIPLOMA COMPUTER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY GUIDANCE

Guidance for Nevada's teachers and high schools regarding the implementation of the Computer Education and Technology credit requirements for the Alternative Diploma for students with significant cognitive disabilities



Introduction

This guidance document is designed to assist Nevada’s schools and teachers in the implementation of the credit requirements necessary for a student to attain an Alternative Diploma. The Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) requires students pursuing the Alternative Diploma to attain a minimum number of high school credits (Table 1), including a half credit in Computer Education and Technology. Currently, Nevada does not have approved NVACS Connectors in the Computer Education and Technology subject area. This document provides suggested modifications to the Nevada Computer Education and Technology Standards, which can be used to inform the content of a half credit course for students with significant cognitive disabilities (SCD).

Table 1.

Credit Minimums for Graduating Cohorts 2022 and After

Required Course	Minimum Number of Units
Social Studies	2.0
Arts and Humanities, Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (Level III or Level IV) or Career and Technical Education	1.0
College and Career Ready Flex Credit (see notes below for details)	2.0
English Language Arts	4.0
Health Education	0.5
Mathematics	3.0
Physical Education	2.0
Computer Education and Technology	0.5
Science	2.0
Electives	6.0
TOTAL	23 Units

Note. The course of study in college and career ready flex credit must include:

- (a) Level II or Level III course of study in a program area prescribed pursuant to NAC 389.803 (*Career and Technical Education courses that are Level II and Level III fulfill this requirement*);
- (b) Fourth year of mathematics;
- (c) Third year of social studies; **or**
- (d) Third year of science

Each section of this guidance document is organized as follows:

1. **Focus Area** – Identifies the focus area the Computer Education and Technology Standards fall within

Standards:

Nevada Computer Education and Technology Modified Standards

Nevada Computer Education and Technology Standard No. – <i>Identifies the number for the Computer and Technology Standard from which the modified standard is derived</i>
--

Modified Computer Education and Technology Standard – <i>Identifies the modified Standard to guide content and instruction</i>

**Note: The Integrated Technology Standards on which much of the content in this document is based do not yet have assigned standard numbers. We will update this document with the corresponding Integrated Technology Standard numbers when they are assigned.*

1. Empowered Learner

Standards:

Computer Education and Technology Modified Standards

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students use digital tools to make informed choices about personal and career goals

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students use social media platforms to build social capital

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students actively respond to constructive feedback when using digital tools to create content

2. Digital Citizen

Standards:

Computer Education and Technology Modified Standards

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students show an ability to represent themselves appropriately on social media and show an understanding of the repercussions of not doing so

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students display an understanding of potential online dangers

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students demonstrate appropriate use of digital materials

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students keep personal information private and show an ability to use their information safely online

3. Knowledge Constructor

Standards:

Computer Education and Technology Modified Standards

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Given a main idea or a topic, student will use digital tools to locate more detailed information about the topic or main idea

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students evaluate the credibility of digital information

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students will use digital tools to create a transition portfolio that supports their postsecondary education or career goals

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students will use digital tools to solve real-world functional problems

4. Innovative Designer

Standards:

Computer Education and Technology Modified Standards

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students use various digital platforms to design functional and expressive products

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students revise designed products that are both functional and expressive based on collaboration and constructive feedback

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students demonstrate perseverance when working with digital tools through self-determined behavior

5. Computational Thinker

Standards:

Computer Education and Technology Modified Standards

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students use technology to plan and accomplish functional tasks

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students use digital sources of information to problem solve and make informed decisions

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students collaborate with others to use technology to solve problems and express ideas

6. Creative Communicator

Standards:

Computer Education and Technology Modified Standards

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students use digital tools for expressive and functional communication

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students use two or more digital platforms to create an original product that is communicative

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students use digital tools to create a product that uses graphic depictions

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students present content created using digital tools

7. Global Collaborator

Standards:

Computer Education and Technology Modified Standards

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students use digital tools to interact with communities outside of their school and immediate social circles

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students use collaborative tools (live and recorded) to connect with members of communities outside of their school and immediate social circles

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students use digital tools to schedule functional community-based routines

Integrated Technology Standard number not yet assigned

Students use digital tools to collaborate on a community-based initiative

Other Guidance

The Computer Education and Technology standards require that students are able to access technology in a variety of ways. For students with significant disabilities, functional uses of technology can advance future community and vocational inclusion. Technology also offers social and recreational outlets that students with significant disabilities should be provided the opportunity to learn to use safely and appropriately. The modified Computer Education and Technology standards reflect a focus on the functional and expressive use of technology.

The Nevada Department of Education's Office of Special Education recognizes that students with significant cognitive disabilities (SCD) represent a broad diversity of abilities and support needs. In an effort to assist IEP teams in decision making and planning for the Alternative Diploma, we have developed the following Recommended Minimum Access Point as guidance. This recommended access point for students with SCD is intended to promote the broadest level of student access to a Computer Education and Technology curriculum, while also ensuring a high level of rigor in student programming.

Computer Education and Technology Recommended Minimum Access Point

Recommended Minimum Access Point – *Students can access* technology* for functional and expressive purposes**

access* - A student's ability to access curriculum materials should be considered within the broadest range of possible options and should consider: adaptations, modifications, and alternative versions of presentation and response.

technology* - While computers are a key technology platform for this curricular area, various technological devices perform digital functions similar to computers. A broad consideration should be given to available assistive and common technology devices to provide students with the greatest latitude of access to digital literacy.

functional and expressive purposes* - A focus on the functional and expressive use of technology is repeated throughout this guidance document. Using technology functionally provides students with significant disabilities applied skills that can be used to meet their postsecondary community and employment goals, and their daily living skill needs. Using technology expressively in a safe and appropriate manner allows students with significant disabilities access to digital social and entertainment platforms that can improve their quality of life.

The modified standards included in this document inform the content for the Computer Education and Technology half credit required for students to attain the Alternative Diploma (Figure 1). Delivery of the content required to meet the Computer Education and Technology credit may occur in the general education setting with modified content, or it may occur in a segregated special education setting, depending on the least restrictive environment (LRE) determinations made by the IEP team.

Figure 1.

Example Four Year Course of Study Based on 2022 Requirements

Period	Freshman Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
1 st Period	ELA I (1 Credit)	ELA II (1 Credit)	ELA III (1 Credit)	ELA IV (1 Credit)
2 nd Period	Algebra I (1 Credit)	Geometry (1 Credit)	Mathematics for Everyday Living (1 Credit)	
3 rd Period	Biology (1 Credit)	Physical Science (1 Credit)	Elective Credit (1 Credit)	
4 th Period	Economics (.5 Credit) American Government (.5 Credit)	American History (1 Credit)	Elective Credit (1 Credit)	
5 th Period	Health Education (.5 Credit)	Physical Education (1 Credit)	Physical Education (1 Credit)	
	*Computer Science and Applications (.5 Credit)			
6 th Period	Culinary I (1 Credit)	Culinary II (1 Credit) *Flex Credit	Culinary III (1 Credit) * Flex Credit	
7 th Period	Elective Credit (1 Credit)	Elective Credit (1 Credit)	Elective Credit (1 Credit)	Elective Credit (1 Credit)

**Note. Computer Science and Applications is a common course name for the Computer Education and Technology half credit requirement in Nevada.*