🎉 Exciting News: Grant Awarded for Computer Science Professional Development 💻

2 messages

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Reply-To: jelkin@cpuschools.org

Thu, Jan 23, 2025 at
10:47 AM

Dear CPU Staff, Families, and Community Members:

I am thrilled to share some fantastic news... our district has been awarded grant funds to support professional development in computer science!

Please see the attached press release (which is also located on our website and will be posted on social media) along with the Iowa Department of Education's official statement.

This grant represents an incredible opportunity to enhance our educators' skills and expand learning opportunities for our students.

DE: https://educate.iowa.gov/headline-story/2025-01-23/department-awards-grant-funds-computer-science-professional-development

Regards,
John W. Elkin, Superintendent

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📄 **2025-01-23-10-47-11_2025 Computer Science Grant Press Release.pdf**
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News Release

Center Point-Urbana CSD Awarded $72,641 Grant for Computer Science Professional Development

Center Point, IA — The Iowa Department of Education has announced its intent to award a $72,641 grant to the Center Point-Urbana Community School District (CSD) through the Computer Science Professional Development Incentive Fund. This full funding of the district's proposed budget will support efforts to enhance computer science instruction by providing professional development opportunities for educators.

The grant funds will be used to pay for professional learning for teachers and student materials. This investment aims to expand access to rigorous and engaging computer science education for students across the district.

"We are both honored and thankful for the Department of Education fully supporting this grant that will positively impact our students," said Center Point-Urbana CSD Superintendent John Elkin. "I would like to give recognition to Ms. Melissa Hocking, Director of School Improvement, who worked tirelessly on this grant. Ms. Hocking's dedication to the district and her passion for supporting teaching and learning is unmatched. We are very blessed to have her in our district."

Ms. Hocking's leadership has been instrumental in shaping a forward-thinking vision for Center Point-Urbana's educational priorities. Her ability to identify opportunities like this grant and see them through to success demonstrates her commitment to fostering excellence in education. With her expertise and unwavering drive, the district is poised to make significant strides in preparing students for the demands of an increasingly technology-driven world.

The district's Computer Science Team includes Ms. Sandy Fehl, Ms. Lisa O'Rourke, Ms. Leslie Cadien, Ms. Michelle Halac, and Ms. Amy Grundmeyer. These dedicated educators have been instrumental in advancing computer science programs within the district and will continue to champion this important work in the future.

The grant period begins on January 3, 2025, and extends through September 30, 2025. By accepting the grant, Center Point-Urbana CSD commits to advancing the program objectives outlined in the FY25 CSPDIF Grant Application and Implementation Guidance.

This funding underscores the district's ongoing commitment to fostering innovation and preparing students for the future by equipping teachers with the tools and knowledge needed to deliver high-quality computer science education.

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