



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 27, 2017

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator, Student, and School Support

SUBJECT: Computer Science Education Opportunity for Michigan Schools

Computer science is an industry growing at three and a half times the state's average. Ensuring students are exposed to this fast-growing industry early in their education will help fill the pipeline of the high-tech, high-paying jobs that await them as well as engaging them in authentic learning experiences.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has collaborated with the [Michigan Film & Digital Media Office](#) (MFDMO) to provide digital badging opportunities for students.

The MFDMO and Google have partnered to advance computer science education in Michigan schools by elevating [Google's CS First](#) curriculum. CS First is a completely free, online curriculum that is designed for grades 4 through 8 and can be incorporated in the classroom or as an after school club.

The MFDMO and Google recently hosted their second annual CS First event at the Breslin Center on the campus of Michigan State University. Attending students engaged in a variety of computer science activities including robotics, drones, 3-D printing, and coding games.

The MFDMO and Google partnership, in its second year, has nearly 5,000 students currently enrolled in the program. **By joining the partnership**, participating schools have access to **digital badging** which their students can share on social media pages, are supplied up to **20 complimentary headphones**, and are invited to participate in the **annual CS First event at the Breslin Center**.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • 517-373-3324

Joining the partnership is an easy two-step process:

- 1) Visit the [CS First Michigan](#) page to submit an application. Completing this application entitles you to *exclusive* partnership opportunities including the ability for your students to share **digital badges** of the CS First Club themes. The MFDMO also provides up to **20 complimentary headphones** to schools that participate in the CS First program through the partnership. Participating schools will also be invited to attend our annual Google event at the Breslin Center on the campus of Michigan State University.
- 2) [Start a club and receive lesson plans](#) on the CS First website.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.cs-first.com/michigan> or contact the Michigan Film & Digital Media Office at csfirst@michigan.org.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance