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TO: Local Directors of Career and Technology Education

FROM: Lynne M. Gilli, Ed.D. *LMG*
Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Career and College Readiness

DATE: April 25, 2017

SUBJECT: Computer Science CTE Program of Student

I wanted to make you aware of some recent changes regarding the Computer Science Career and Technology Education (CTE) Program of Study. When the program was first developed, the CyberWatch courses were eligible to be provided as dual enrollment courses. However, according to Casey O'Brien, CyberWatch (CW) Executive Director, CW no longer participates in the K-12 arena, which means that teachers will not have access to continued professional development (PD).

Up until recently, there were two options for the fourth course in the program:

- Course 1: Foundations of Computer Science,
- Course 2: AP Computer Science Principles,
- Course 3: AP Computer Science A, and
- Course 4: Cybersecurity (School systems select one or more)**
 - *CyberWatch110: Ethics and the Information Age, or*
 - *CyberWatch130: Microcomputer Operating Systems*

Without the CyberWatch courses, this program will no longer remain a CTE state program of study. Unfortunately, this was discovered after the Reserve Fund Grants were submitted for both new programs and professional development. Below are some recommendations for you to consider and take action:

1. You can migrate your program over to the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Computer Science (CS) CTE program of study. Teachers who demonstrate that they have a College Board approved syllabus and have been trained will not have to immediately be trained in the two AP courses that make up the PLTW Computer Science Pathway. They will, however, have to be trained in PLTW's first and fourth courses: *Computer Science Essentials* and *Cybersecurity* respectively. You should also know that if a school already has the PLTW Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Programs, then the program fee is capped at \$4,000.

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2. You may elect to keep the Computer Science CTE Program of Study as a local program. If you choose this option, then you will need to amend the program proposal and identify the fourth course in the program sequence. If a dual enrollment course is identified, then the agreement with the college must be included with the amendment.

For Directors who submitted a Reserve Fund Grant (RFG) for program planning and implementation (Priority 1), please note that reserve funds will not be eligible for use for local Computer Science CTE programs. However, requests for professional development for the Computer Science CTE program of study will be reviewed and considered for funding (Priority 4).

Please note that the *Foundations of Computer Science* and *AP Computer Science Principles* courses may still count toward the Technology Education graduation requirement. However, if you decide to do this, then the courses cannot be used as part of a CTE program of study—in other words, double dipping is not allowable.

If you have any questions about the computer science program, please contact Marquita Friday, CTE Lead Specialist, or Scott Nichols, CTE Specialist, who are on the Information Technology Cluster Team. Nina is available to assist with questions regarding the Reserve Fund grants. Marquita Friday may be reached at (410) 767-0183 or via email at marquita.Friday@maryland.gov, Scott may be reached at (410) 767-0177 or via email at charles.nichols@maryland.gov, and Nina may be reached at (410) 767-1904 or via email at nina.roa@maryland.gov. They are happy to provide any technical assistance requested by CTE local directors regarding the computer science programs.

LMG:mdf