BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND
BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
JOINT RESOLUTION

NO.:   BHE 18-04

BESE

BOARD DATE: January 23, 2018

RESOLUTION REGARDING INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE

MOVED: That the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Board of Higher Education (BHE) (collectively "the Boards") hereby charge the Commissioner of the Department of Higher Education (DHE) and the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to convene a working group, which will be charged with developing a specific proposal intended to accomplish two goals:

I. To develop a long term strategy to enable many more students graduating from Massachusetts public high schools to study computer science/computational thinking as part of MassCore, the recommended program of studies in high school.

II. To increase the number of students interested in pursuing computer science as a field of study in postsecondary education and, by extension, those students interested in pursuing careers in technology following graduation from a postsecondary institution.

Possible issues to be considered by the working group should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Moving computer science from use as an "additional core course" in MassCore to allow for a computer science course to substitute for other Mass Core courses;
2. Exploring how a computer science component in MassCore might be met through a multi-year, integrated course of study or pathway;
3. Ensuring that any computer science course or pathway that is incorporated into MassCore is aligned with the 2016 Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards;
4. Developing an assessment strategy that provides the opportunity to demonstrate competency in computer science as

a means of meeting the high school Competency Determination (CD) for purposes of high school graduation;

5. Exploring the incorporation of computer science into higher education admissions criteria as an incentive for expanded computer science offerings;

6. Identifying and addressing barriers to ensuring equitable access to all students to pursue courses in computer science and/or digital literacy.

7. Exploring alignment of computer science with existing math pathways;

No later than June 30, 2018, the Commissioners shall report back to and seek final approval from the BHE and BESE boards, respectively, either individually or through a joint session, on a specific proposal related to computer science.

Authority: M.G.L. c. 15A, §9(u) and M.G.L. c. 69, §1B

Contact: Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner, Department of Higher Education

Jeff Wulfson, Acting Commissioner, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.