



## Improving Equity in Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles Program Description Santa Rosa City Schools, CA

The *Improving Equity in Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles (CSP)* project and associated *School Computer Science (CS) Equity Program* are described below. This is followed by two research agreements (RA) that establish and define the relationships between the district, Santa Rosa City Schools, and the project lead, Education Development Center (EDC), and between the district and the program evaluator, Abt Associates (Abt), respectively.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The *Improving Equity in AP CSP* project is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and designed to help high schools expand AP CSP course offerings using the *Beauty and Joy of Computing (BJC)* curriculum. Through the *School CS Equity Program*, participating high schools will receive curriculum-based teacher professional development and implementation support that aims to increase student participation and success in CS. The evaluation of the project, conducted by Abt Associates, will examine the effects of the program on students' enrollment in and completion of an AP CSP course, as well as on taking and passing the AP CSP exam. This project will involve 80 high schools across the country.

### PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The *School CS Equity Program* includes the following activities:

- *Use of BJC.* Participating teachers will use BJC in their AP CSP courses for two academic years (2023–24 and 2024–25). The BJC materials are freely available at [bjc.edc.org](http://bjc.edc.org).
- *Teacher learning program.* Teachers will participate in BJC professional development (PD) for one week in summer 2023 and receive ongoing support in 2023–24 and 2024–25 (through webinars and an online forum led by North Carolina State University). Teachers may also be invited to participate in a Leadership Academy and train to lead PD sessions and build capacity for scaling CS courses. Teachers will receive a stipend of \$1,000 for participation in BJC PD.
- *School CS equity program.* The program will support AP CSP teachers as leaders in efforts to broaden participation in CS at their schools. Teachers will partner with CS and school leaders, employ strategies from our *Recruitment Toolkit*, create a CS implementation plan, and participate in 2–3 consultations with EDC staff each year (on-site or virtually).

### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

In Santa Rosa City Schools, the following high schools will participate in the project as treatment schools for the 2023–24 and 2024–25 school years: [Piner High School](#). The evaluation team at Abt Associates may also request student records data for AP CSP students in non-participating schools for the purpose of inclusion in a comparison dataset.

### PROJECT DURATION

This project is funded through December 31, 2026. A report on the project's overall findings will be provided to the district at the end of the funded grant.



**Improving Equity in Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles**  
Education Development Center Research Agreement  
Santa Rosa City Schools, CA

**PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Improving Equity in AP CSP project is to support the development and continuous improvement of the *School CS Equity Program* in participating high schools and investigate the program elements needed for successful implementation of CS curricula and instruction.

**FORMATIVE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

EDC will collect formative data from participating teachers about their experiences in the *School CS Equity Program*. This data includes:

- *Online surveys.* Teachers will be asked to complete a survey before and after the summer professional development for BJC, as well as mid-year and end-of-year for two years about their program experience and course implementation. Surveys will take 15–30 minutes each.
- *Optional interviews.* Teachers may be asked to participate in interviews 1–2 times each year about their program experience and use of BJC. Interviews would be 45 minutes, scheduled at the teacher’s convenience, video-recorded, and conducted remotely.

No classroom observations will be conducted as part of this project. (As the evaluator, Abt will request student records data from the district. That request will be governed by a separate agreement with Abt.)

Risks associated with participation in these activities will not be beyond those required for the completion of participants’ job as educators. Information collected from teachers will be de-identified and securely stored by EDC. Survey data will be shared with Abt for analysis. No identifying information about the district, schools, or teachers will be included in any reports that result from the research.

**INFORMED CONSENT**

All participating teachers will be provided with informed consent forms. Participation is voluntary.

By signing below, I confirm that I have read the above information and agree to Santa Rosa City Schools’ participation in the formative research activities described.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Assistant Superintendent, E

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District Administrator, Title, Date

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Deborah Spencer, Managing Project Director at EDC, Date