

To whom it may concern:

My name is Ella DiLorenzo and I am an elementary teacher at New Code Academy in Bloomington Public Schools. Our school is an immersive computer science school and our students engage in computer science thinking every day.

As someone who did not have the opportunity to learn about computer science, I am blown away by the curriculum, skills, and investigative work my students participate in through computer science courses. My fourth graders, many of them women and students of color, dream about finding jobs in computer science. I am invigorated watching my students engage in learning that will prepare them for opportunities I did not even know existed.

As teachers, we are dedicated to ensuring equitable access to computer science programming for all of our students. Many of our students are not currently represented in the computer science field, which is why we spend a lot of time developing students' identities as problem-solvers and technology experts. It is exciting to see students transform throughout the year as they become more and more confident in their skills.

All students should have the opportunity to be exposed to computer science programs, skills, and thinking. Even if children do not choose to pursue a career in this field, the life skills they learn along the way are so valuable. Coding encourages pattern recognition, problem solving skills, and collaboration between groups.

As a leader in business and innovation, Minnesota should invest in computer science programs. It will empower the generation of tomorrow's leaders to attack problems, critically think, and adapt to the ever-changing world we live in.

Sincerely,

Ella DiLorenzo