



we LEAD

COMPUTER SCIENCE

KY VIRTUAL CAREER ACADEMY

**NAMED
1 OF THE TOP 5
INNOVATIONS
IN THE NATION
BY THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

2025-2026 School Year

CONNECTING KY STUDENTS TO THE FUTURE

Powered by a \$3 million investment from the Kentucky General Assembly, We Lead CS is a first-of-its-kind, virtual computer science career academy. We prepare Kentucky high school students for high-wage careers in our technology-driven economy - many they can do virtually in their home communities. We enable districts to provide courses, student support services, and work based learning opportunities at a lower cost and without requirements for minimum or maximum enrollment.

Benefits for Districts



- WLCS focuses on student achievement on all 5 indicators for Postsecondary Readiness - increasing districts' eligibility for CTE and Perkins funding.
- Synchronous, daily instruction from WLCS teachers.
- Tutoring and college/career advising.
- Curriculum and administration of industry certifications provided by WLCS.

Cost for Students



- KHEAA provides students with the opportunity to utilize two Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarships (WRDC) for CTE courses each academic year. WLCS courses are eligible for WRDC to eliminate the tuition cost at KCTCS.
- All other fees will be covered by WLCS.

Cost for Districts



- **\$500 per student fee** for year-long Intro to Computer Programming course.
- **\$250 per student fee** for a 3-hour (1 semester-long dual credit course).
- Other fees related to student enrollment and certification are covered by WLCS.



VIRTUAL WORK BASED LEARNING

Our business partners include some of the largest tech employers in America, including 5/3 Bank, 84.51, GE Aviation, Great American Insurance, and Procter & Gamble. In partnership with Kentucky chambers of commerce, we're recruiting Kentucky companies to engage with students in the We Lead CS virtual work based learning program that includes:

VIRTUAL JOB SHADOWING	RESUME WRITING	MOCK JOB INTERVIEWS	PAID INTERNSHIPS
LINKEDIN NETWORKING	GITHUB TRAINING	PROJECT MANAGEMENT	NETWORKING

MORE INFORMATION: jgray@weleadcs.org



DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS

- Assign a teacher or counselor in the high school responsible for student performance and participation in We Lead CS courses. *School contacts must attend a virtual orientation with the We Lead CS team to discuss how they will monitor students' performance and participation together.*
- Assign students a laptop or Chromebook that the students can take home for homework.
- Assign students headphones .
- Provide students access to Microsoft products.



WLCS Timeline for 2025-26 Enrollment



DUAL CREDIT

- Students will enroll for dual credit in the district's partner KCTCS community college.
- Districts must be approved at 50+ with SACS by January 2025 to offer Dual Credit in Fall 2025. *We Lead CS staff will assist districts and community colleges with this process in consultation with KCTCS.*
- We Lead CS staff will assist students with application for Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarships, if needed.

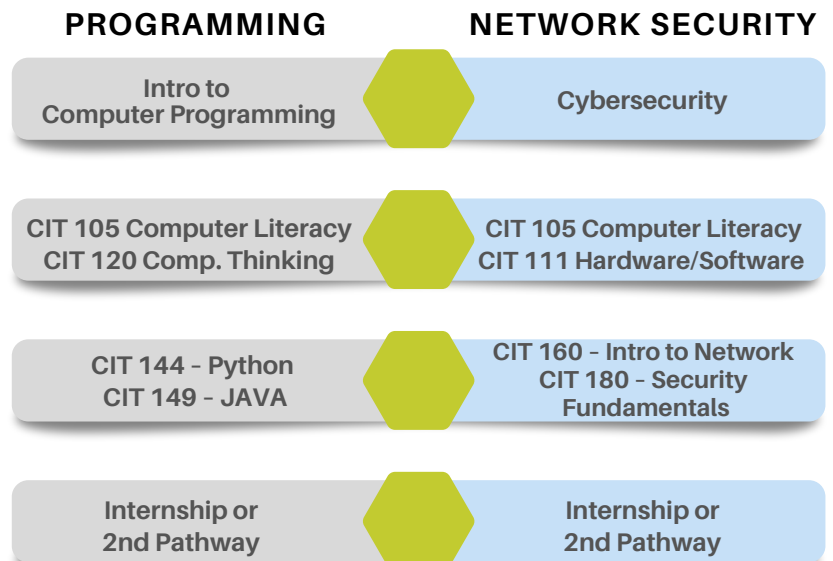
CAREER PATHWAYS

In 2025-26 WLCS will offer courses in two computer science career pathways approved by the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education:

- **Computer Programming (CIP 11.0201.01)**
- **Network Security (CIP 11.1003.00)**

We Lead CS will administer required End of Program Assessments. Scores will be reported to and are included in the student's home district accountability data.

COURSE SEQUENCE



KY'S TECH TALENT PIPELINE PROBLEM

Graduation rates are not keeping pace with job market demands.

We Lead CS Certifications for High Demand Industry

IC3 G6 Information Technology Specialist Python, JAVA, Software Development & HTML	}	Computer Programming Stack
CompTIA A+ Information Technology Specialist Network Security & Networking		Network Security Stack

In 2023, Kentucky averaged
3,427
open computing jobs each
month.

*code.org 2023 report



**KY Senate President
Pro Tem David Givens**

"There's a gap between students hungry for coding, programming, computer science and curriculum that doesn't really provide opportunities to teach it. The business community needs that talent. We Lead CS will connect the dots by saying here is the curriculum and here are the skilled educators to teach it."

[Read more about us in Building Kentucky](#)

**Computer Science jobs in KY
pay an average annual wage of
\$77,189 per year.**

***That's \$19,193 more than the \$57,996
average annual wage for all KY jobs!***

KY Stats Workforce Overview Report July 2024

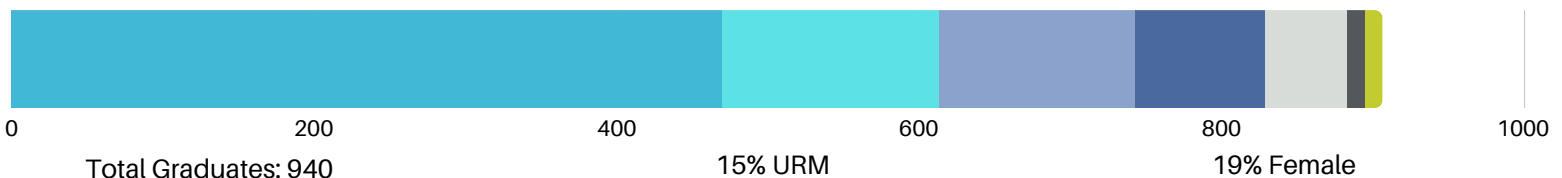
Computer Science Associate Degrees

Computer & Information Sciences Computer Engineering Technology Cybersecurity Defense Strategy/Policy



Computer Science Bachelor's Degrees

Computer & Information Sciences Information Technology Computer Engineering & Computer Software Engineering
Media Informatics Computer Science Computer Engineering Technologies Other



Council on Postsecondary Education Data Center - 2023-2024 Data

