

Executive Summary



June 23- 27, 2025 | Springfield, IL



2025 Participants

Out-of-this-World Expansion

In its third year, CS PD Week kept its sky-high sights on its core mission: providing K-12 educators from across Illinois with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to bring enriching computer science learning experiences to their students.

The 2025 program achieved that goal with an even greater degree of depth and reach. Attendance exploded from about 30 participants to over 80, with representation from over 40 Illinois districts. At the same time, attendees were acquainted with a richer collection of contemporary resources and curricula, empowering them to introduce relevant CS topics - including AI literacy, coding, robotics, physical computing, and digital citizenship - into their home district's curricula.

To that end, this year's program increased learning opportunities, growing from 2024's three tracks to six differentiated learning tracks for K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers. This year, for the first time, we also hosted complimentary programs for students, administrators, and pre-service faculty, making it a multi-stakeholder event with potential to impact school-based CS programs more broadly.

In addition to providing relevant professional learning, CS PD Week seeks to deepen connections between Illinois' new and experienced CS educators through engaging, organic networking opportunities. This year, this included an online gamified experience (through the Goosechase app) and an evening social event at Engrained Brewing. These networking opportunities facilitated the creation of a statewide CS educators network, whose members could support one another during implementation and beyond. A special community space for participants (through the LTC Community) has also been established to further foster participant connection during the following school year.

Another significant bright spot in this year's program: new and increased financial support from CSTA, Code.org, and the Illinois CS Equity Grant. Their support allowed us to provide no-cost registration, lodging compensation, and a \$900 stipend to nearly all attendees - all of which helped lower barriers to entry, especially for educators traveling further than 50 miles to attend.

2025 Program

June 23-27, 2025

Capital Area Career Center
Springfield, IL

ORGANIZERS:
Learning Technology
Center, CS4IL,
Discovery Partners
Institute, CSTA Illinois,
ECEP Illinois

80+
Participants

41
Illinois School Districts
Represented





Networking

- Each day, participants started with a group meal before going into classrooms to learn about different CS-focused resources.
- Between sessions, participants continued building their personal learning networks during group lunches
- During a special social event held Thursday evening, participants deepened their connections at Engrained Brewing where participants enjoyed delicious food, drinks, and tons of laughs.



Key Outcomes

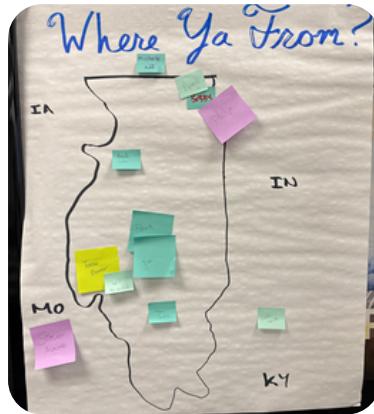
- All participants walked away with a basic competency in core computer science topics and teaching strategies, empowering them to bring CS learning opportunities into their classrooms in the coming school year.
- All participants were exposed to a passionate segment of the statewide K-12 CS community, providing them with the connections and support they need to implement engaging CS learning experiences back in their home districts.



Learning Opportunities

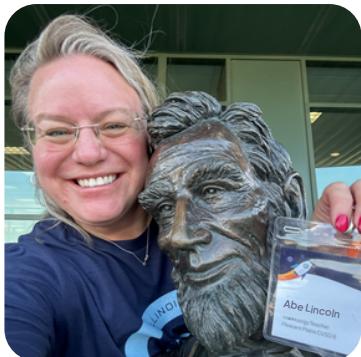
- Classroom sessions provided opportunities to learn and explore with various resources and curricula. Content was provided by these leading CS learning providers
 - Code.org
 - Swift
 - Ozobot
 - Lego ® Education
 - Learning Blade
 - CodeHS
 - micro:bit
- Faculty from several Illinois universities supported content instruction:
 - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign - "Human Centered Design"
 - University of Illinois & Illinois State University - "How to Build Your Own AI Agent"
 - Southern Illinois University Carbondale STEM Center "Sensory Engineering Curriculum"
- Experienced in-service teachers presented on various topics:
 - Digital Literacy
 - Cybersecurity
 - Curriculum Mapping & Design
 - CS in the Content Area Integration

30+ Session Choices



2025 Attendees

- Average **18 years teaching experience**
- Many **first-year CS** teachers, most with fewer than 5 years CS experience
- Participants from **underserved or underrepresented** districts were prioritized for scholarships. (Special Education, Low-income students, underrepresented minority groups, English language learners, and rural students)
- Participants from school districts that have **not previously offered** CS attended



Districts Served

- Amboy CUSD 272, Amboy
- Bradley SD 61, Bradley
- Brown County CUSD 1, Mt Sterling
- Capital Area Career Center, Springfield (3 participants)
- Carlinville CUSD 1, Carlinville (2 participants)
- Chicago Public Schools, Dist 299, Chicago (13 participants)
- Cobden SUD 17, Cobden
- Columbia CUSD 4, Columbia
- Community Consolidated School District 89
- Cook County SD 130, Blue Island
- CUSD 3 Fulton County, Cuba
- CUSD 308, Oswego
- Dolton SD 149, Calumet City
- Effingham CUSD 40, Effingham
- Freeburg CCSD 70, Freeburg
- Galva CUSD 224, Galva
- Granite City CUSD 9, Granite City
- Henry-Senachwine CUSD 5, Henry
- Johnston City CUSD 1, Johnston City
- Kankakee SD 111, Kankakee (3 participants)
- Marion CUSD 2, Marion (4 participants)
- Midlothian SD 143, Midlothian (2 participants)
- Moline-Coal Valley CUSD 40, Moline
- Mount Olive CUSD 5, Mount Olive
- North Boone CUSD 200, Poplar Grove
- North Clay CUSD 25, Louisville
- Olympia CUSD 16, Stanford
- Palatine CCSD 15, Palatine (2 participants)
- Patoka CUSD 100, Patoka
- Plano Area Special Ed Coop, Plano
- Plano CUSD 88, Plano (2 participants)
- Pleasant Hill CUSD 3, Pleasant Hill
- Pleasant Plains CUSD 8, Pleasant Plains
- Porta CUSD 202, Petersburg (3 participants)
- Riverdale CUSD 100, Port Byron
- Riverton CUSD 14, Riverton (2 participants)
- Salem CHSD 600, Salem
- Scott-Morgan CUSD 2, Bluffs
- Taylorville CUSD 3, Taylorville
- Woodstock CUSD 200, Woodstock
- Zion ESD 6, Zion (6 participants)

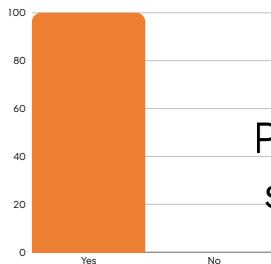
Next Steps for 2026:

- Grow the event to **100 K-12 participants**
- **Expand learning tracks** to include more choices for participants with varying levels of CS teaching experience
- **Secure consistent funding** that continues to cover the travel and lodging costs for all participants
- **Partner with additional entities**, such as counselors, instructional coaches, and community college instructors, to increase stakeholder engagement



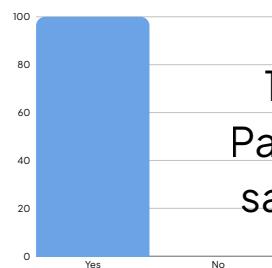
Attendee Feedback

“Would you recommend this professional development to a colleague?”



100% of Participants said “YES”

“Are you interested in attending IL CS PD Week again?”



100% of Participants said “YES”

“This has stoked an excitement in me and my team. We feel we have a solid plan to move forward, identified teachers to begin bringing along to integrate more CS in their classroom.”

It's encouraging to meet with teachers that share the same challenges and hear what is working in their district. I've learned several new strategies for working with students and using these tools within the classroom.

I've made connections with other teachers who do the same things I do in class. I have the beginnings of a network of teachers to contact if I have questions.

This experience gave me a starting point to implement CS at my district.

“I love that I now have a coherent sequence of K-5 instruction. I didn't have a lot of direction before because I didn't have time to invent 6 different wheels.”

I feel more confident in my profession and ready to go back and teach with new resources.