

# Computer Applications

## *Guidance Regarding the Use of Computer Applications to Meet Core and College/Work-Ready Curriculum Requirements for Graduation*

On the new Subject Code list for the school year 2018-2019, Computer Applications 1 and 2 were moved from the “Computer Education” list to the “Computer Education-Electives” list. Critically, **this adjustment does not impact** the acceptance of Computer Applications 1 and 2 for meeting “Computer Education” requirements found in both the Core and College/Work-Ready course options found in O.S. 70 §11-103(6). **Nor does this adjustment impact** the acceptance of Computer Applications 1 and 2 for the purposes of Oklahoma’s Promise.

The adjustment is designed to bring attention to a few critical shifts that are occurring that should be on school’s radars:

- **New Standards** - The legislature approved new Oklahoma Academic Standards for Computer Science this spring, making Oklahoma one of the first few states in the nation to adopt ambitious learning expectations for all students in the area of computer science. Find the new standards at <http://sde.ok.gov/sde/oklahoma-academic-standards>.
- **Early Opportunities with Applications** - The use of Computer Applications 1 and 2 to meet the graduation requirements and Oklahoma’s Promise is *allowed, but not recommended*. The traditional content of Computer Applications addresses desktop publishing, spreadsheets, and presentation software. While mastery of these applications is essential for all students, the time to gain familiarity with these applications occurs prior to high school. The addition of a new Computer Applications course code for grades K-8 makes this course more clearly available in earlier grades.
- **Technological and Global Society** - In order for Oklahoma students to be prepared for the workforce and post-secondary opportunities available to them, they will need access to the knowledge, skills, and abilities conveyed in the new Oklahoma Academic Standards for Computer Science and/or the Oklahoma Academic Standards for World Languages. Computer Applications courses should be re-envisioned as Computer Science courses over the next few years if we are to put our best effort forward in ensuring that all Oklahoma students are prepared for the increasingly global and technological society.

There are some implications for school leaders as a result of this adjustment:

- **Accreditation Process** - When using Computer Applications 1 and 2 in the accreditation report, a flag will indicate that the course(s) are no longer available for meeting the graduation requirements. Regional Accreditation Officers (RAOs) will clear the flag and the school will be able to continue using the course(s) as provided for in the graduation requirements and Oklahoma’s Promise.
- **Shifting Expectations** - Administrators should begin conversations around how they might respond to the changing expectations by shifting Computer Applications courses toward Computer Science courses. While standards are available for Computer Science, it is critical that consideration is given to curriculum, professional development, and communication of the shift to students, teachers, parents, and counselors. The Computer Education textbook adoption cycle begins this year. Learn more at <http://oktextbooks.ok.gov>.