

# Cohort 2 FAQ

## 1. What is the *IndianaComputes!* Professional Development course?

*IndianaComputes!* is a data-driven, **online** professional development model that aligns with best practice recommendations for teacher PD. The program is year-long, and is guided by Higher Ed Computer Science teaching faculty. The course has two distinct and critical parts: (1) weekly synchronous sessions with Higher Ed Computer Science teaching faculty, who help distill content and pedagogy, and work with teacher participants in small groups; (2) online content and pedagogy modules that include key areas in Computer Science: computational thinking, programming, data (representation and analysis), cybersecurity, assessment, and broadening participation. The online modules include both formative and summative assessment that allow you to check your understanding. Project work averages about four hours a week, which includes a weekly synch session with Higher Ed faculty and a weekly session with your local teacher coach. Project work is encouraged to be collaborative. Our kick off is slated for the week of August 16, 2021.

## 2. Who is eligible to participate in *IndianaComputes!* Cohort 2?

Any licensed Indiana K-12 public or charter school teacher who did not participate in *IndianaComputes!* Cohort 1 is eligible to participate. We also allow the participation of STEM specialists and others licensed to support classroom teachers.

## 3. What benefits will I receive?

Participants will receive PGP Certificates on completion of each unit, and on completion of the course, a \$600 stipend. Approximately 150 PGPs are earned by project end, and participants are awarded PGP certificates. Completion is defined as submission of all required materials. In addition, participants gain access to our growing repository of exemplary CS classroom materials and will have a new network of CS-focused colleagues and support.

## 4. Why is this a year-long program?

*IndianaComputes!* is premised on research that indicates that best practice teacher preparation happens over extended periods of time, with significant reflection time and sustained coaching. Using this model, the year-long professional development starts in August, 2021 and ends in May, 2022 with support and frequent breaks in the schedule that hopefully match school breaks.

## 5. How often does the course meet?

Synchronous sessions with *IndianaComputes!* Higher Ed Faculty meet weekly and are held in the late afternoon/evenings for an hour. You also meet with your Teacher Coach once weekly at a time that works best for your group. The Higher Ed meetings insure understanding of the content and pedagogy modules; and the Coach meetings help support classroom implementation.

**6. What CS content will I learn?**

The *IndianaComputes!* model is to explore content first, then pedagogy. All module content aligns to Indiana State Standards for Computer Science, as well as teacher practitioner guidelines. *IndianaComputes!* is comprised of 21 distinct modules in the following areas:

<b>Programming</b> (6 modules)	<b>Data</b> (6 modules)	<b>Cybersecurity</b> (3 modules)	<b>Other</b> (6 modules)
Problem Solving Programming (4) Let's Teach Programming	Data Representation Data Analysis (4) Let's Teach Data	Cybersecurity (2) Let's Teach Cyber	Kickoff Week Building Participation (2) Assessment After School Programs Artificial Intelligence

Each module includes readings, discussions, activities, and quizzes. Most of the modules include a project. Quizzes can be completed as many times as you wish; the highest score will be recorded. Almost all activities can be completed collaboratively.

**7. What equipment or materials will I need to participate?**

You will need a desktop or laptop computer (OS neutral), a reliable internet connection, a camera and microphone, and some way to make and post a simple video (e.g., using a built-in camera, external webcam, or a smartphone). There are no textbooks or materials to purchase. However, we will utilize various free platforms and apps during the course.

**8. I am new to CS. Will I have any help?**

*IndianaComputes!* provides in-person synchronous session support from our Higher Ed teaching faculty. Participants will work in small groups with teaching faculty as well as local coaches. We encourage participants to take advantage of differentiated learning that recognizes teacher experience as well as grade-banded responsibilities. Because of the online nature of *IndianaComputes!*, we are able to differentiate learning based on a teacher's experience.

**9. I am experienced in CS. How will this course benefit me?**

All teachers will benefit from *IndianaComputes!* professional development. Higher Ed faculty will work with teacher applicants to assess gaps and plan exploration paths.

**10. Can I recommend this program to other teachers?**

Please do! The data shows there is significant achievement benefit when working with teammates. All applicants meeting the licensing criteria (and who did not participate in *IndianaComputes!* Cohort 1) are encouraged to apply! If joining with a friend, please indicate that on the application form so that you can be placed in various groups together.

**11. How do I register?**

Register at <https://forms.gle/r6WfeqSoSZ7ZRwRJ7>