RESOLUTION

Whereas, the State Board of Education recognizes the importance of ensuring that Pennsylvania's students are prepared to compete in the global economy; and

Whereas, there are nearly 300,000 jobs in the Commonwealth that require candidates to possess skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and it is projected that, over the next decade, 71 percent of new jobs will require computer science skills; and

Whereas, in partnership with the Pennsylvania STEM Coalition, the Department of Education is working to diversify and increase the number of Pennsylvania educators prepared to provide effective STEM education, the number of students engaged in STEM education from Pre-K through postsecondary, and the number of Pennsylvania residents that are STEM literate; and

Whereas, opportunities in Computer Science are thriving with 21,000 unfilled computer science and software development jobs in Pennsylvania, yet only 2,820 students graduated from postsecondary Computer Science programs in Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania students experience unequal access to preparation for a career that requires Computer Science skills; and

Whereas, recent changes in state policy have made Pennsylvania one of 34 states, plus the District of Columbia, that allow Computer Science courses to count for high school graduation, but the Commonwealth lacks state standards in computer science to ensure a consistent level of rigor in the delivery of such instruction; and

Whereas, the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) has developed K-12 Computer Science Standards and a K-12 Computer Science Framework that were informed by leading experts in the field through an effort co-chaired by a Pennsylvania educator,

Now, Therefore, Be It

Resolved: That the State Board of Education endorses the CSTA K-12 Computer Science Standards and the Board encourages local education agencies across the Commonwealth to voluntarily adopt these standards to guide their practice in the delivery of Computer Science instruction.

As adopted by the State Board of Education on January 11, 2018