



Elizabeth Public Schools Press Release

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EPS Receives \$95K Advanced Computer Science Grant

Competitive grant will help develop, implement new computer science course at Dwyer Technology Academy

Elizabeth, N.J., February 11, 2019 – Elizabeth Public Schools has been awarded the Advanced Computer Science Competitive Grant in the amount of \$95,101 by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

The grant, which runs from January 15, 2019 to June 30, 2020, will be used to develop and implement a new computer science course at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy. The proposed course to be added to the school’s catalog of class offerings is Developing Augment and Virtual Reality Applications.

According to the NJDOE, the grant is a 100-percent state-funded initiative that is intended to expand student access and opportunities to participate in high-quality advanced computer science education.

Elizabeth Public Schools will collaborate with Unity, Inc., New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Oculus, to develop a rigorous course with student opportunities for postsecondary and industry credentials that is aligned to national and state learning standards.

The grant is expected to create a new course sequence that allows students who complete the proposed course to choose to continue with AP Computer Science Principles or to choose another pathway that will provide industry certification and postsecondary credits in an interactive application design.

A sustainability plan will also be created based on the continuous evaluation of the course implementation and recruitment plan. An advisory board will be maintained as well as partnerships with NJIT and Unity while seeking additional industry partners to ensure alignment to learning standards and sustainability of the course. The Developing Augment and Virtual Reality Applications course is expected to have very little recurring cost since the curriculum will be designed and created in-district and the application software is free for educational institutions.

“As a district focused on providing an innovative and personalized learning environment for its students in part through the use of technology, we are very excited to have been selected for this grant,” stated Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. “The curricula developed through this grant will provide Dwyer Technology Academy students with another rigorous course that will prepare them for college and STEM career related opportunities.”

“Elizabeth Public Schools continues to look for any and all available resources to provide its students with a high quality education, including through grant applications,” said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. “I commend the diligence and determination of our educators, which has brought another great academic program to the students of our schools that will help them to be competitive in the 21st century global marketplace.”

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