



Elizabeth Public Schools Press Release

Dwyer Technology Academy Earns College Board AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award

Recognized for Closing the Gender Gap in AP Computer Science Principles

Elizabeth, N.J., January 31, 2020 – John E. Dwyer Technology Academy has earned the College Board AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles. Schools honored with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded young women’s access to AP computer science courses.

Out of the 20,000 institutions that offer AP courses, 818 achieved this important result during the 2018-2019 school year--nearly 20% more than the 685 schools recognized last year. In 2019, Dwyer Technology Academy was one of 639 recognized in the category of AP Computer Science Principles. An additional 36 schools received the award for both CSP and CSA.

“We’re proud to see the creativity, commitment, and enthusiasm our female students have demonstrated in their study of AP Computer Science Principles,” said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. “As educators and administrators, we believe STEM education is vital to our continued advancement of society, our nation’s role as a leader in scientific innovation, and certainly the future success of our young women participating in AP Computer Science Principles.”

Schools receiving the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have achieved either 50% or higher female representation in either or both of the AP computer science courses, or the percentage of female computer science examinees meets or exceeds that of the school’s female population.

“Dwyer Technology Academy is empowering young women to see themselves as creators, innovators, and problem-solvers,” said Stefanie Sanford, College Board global policy chief. “We hope to see even more high schools inspire female students to harness the potential of an AP computer science education.” The introduction of AP Computer Science Principles in 2016 was the largest course launch in AP Program history. In 2019, nearly 100,000 students took the AP CSP exam, more than doubling participation in three years. During that time, the number of female AP CSP students has far outpaced overall growth, with an increase of 136%.

Providing female students with access to computer science courses is necessary to ensure gender parity in high-paying technology jobs and to drive innovation, creativity, and competition. A 2014 Google study found that women are more likely to pursue computer science if they are given the opportunity to explore it in high school.

“In the 21st century, women are increasingly influencing the advancement of the technology and the innovations that are changing our world for the better,” said Elizabeth Board of Education President Diane Barbosa. “I am proud to hear that one of our schools is among those who are leading the way in female participation in computer science. I look forward to seeing the impact these young women are going to have in their community and on our society.”

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