



# CTRL+ALT+ DO WE DELETE?

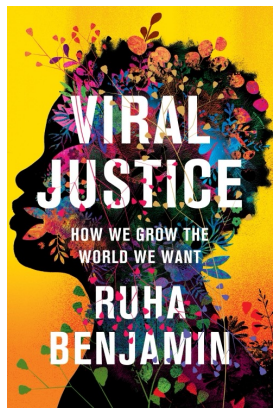
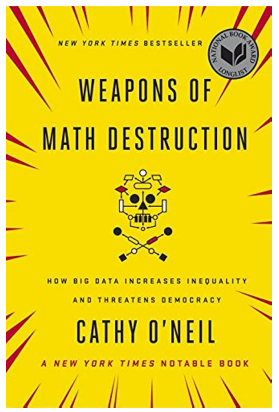
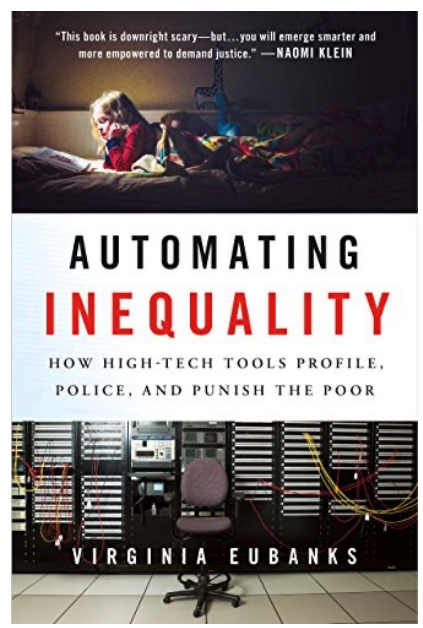
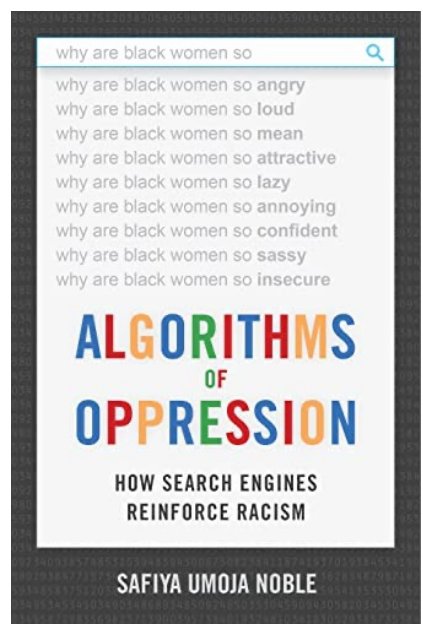
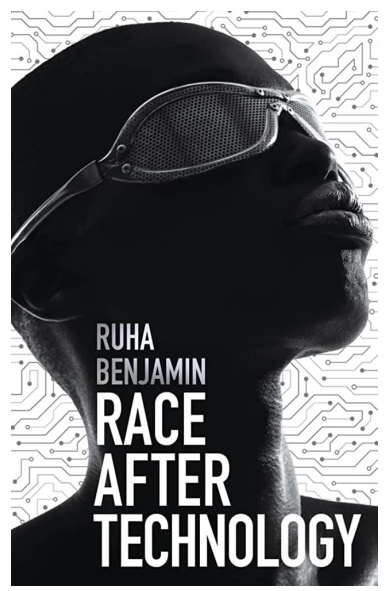
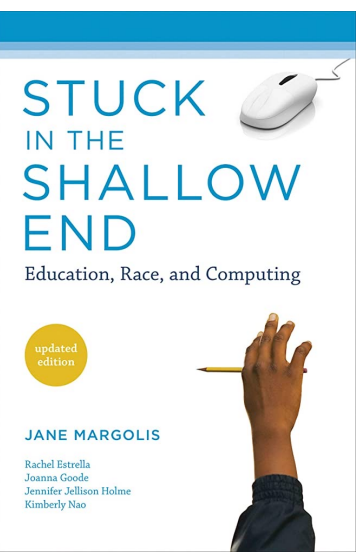
## Leadership and Policy in Computing for our K-12 Educational System

**Joshua Childs, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor

University of Texas at Austin

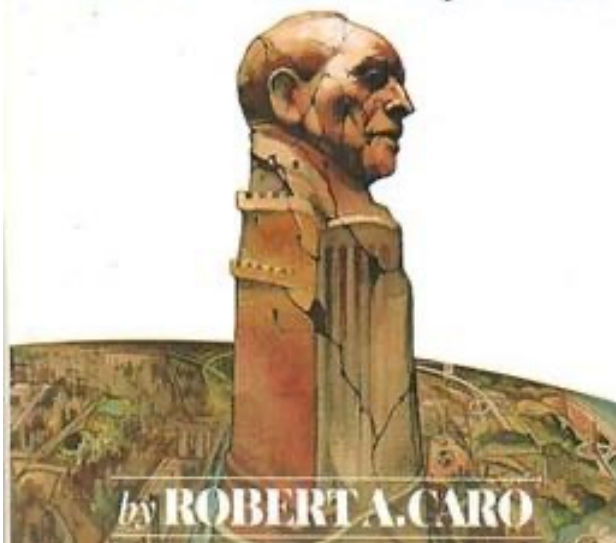
Co-PI: Expanding Computing  
Education Pathways Alliance  
(ECEP)



Winner of the Pulitzer Prize

# THE POWER BROKER

*Robert Moses and the Fall of New York*



by **ROBERT A. CARO**



# When We Think Education...



Institutional



District



State



Federal

Childs & Russell, 2017; StriveTogether, 2018



# When We Think Education...



Institutional



District



Local



State



Federal

Childs & Russell, 2017; StriveTogether, 2018





SCHOOL BUS

483

STOP

# CSEd Leadership

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- Equitable leadership and vision to support educational organizations (Flappan et al., 2021)
- Build leadership capacity to improve access and participation in computer science education (Childs et al., Forthcoming)
- Support educators in providing high-quality teaching & learning environments by creating a culture where equity & inclusion are valued (Goode et al., 2018)





# CSEd Policy

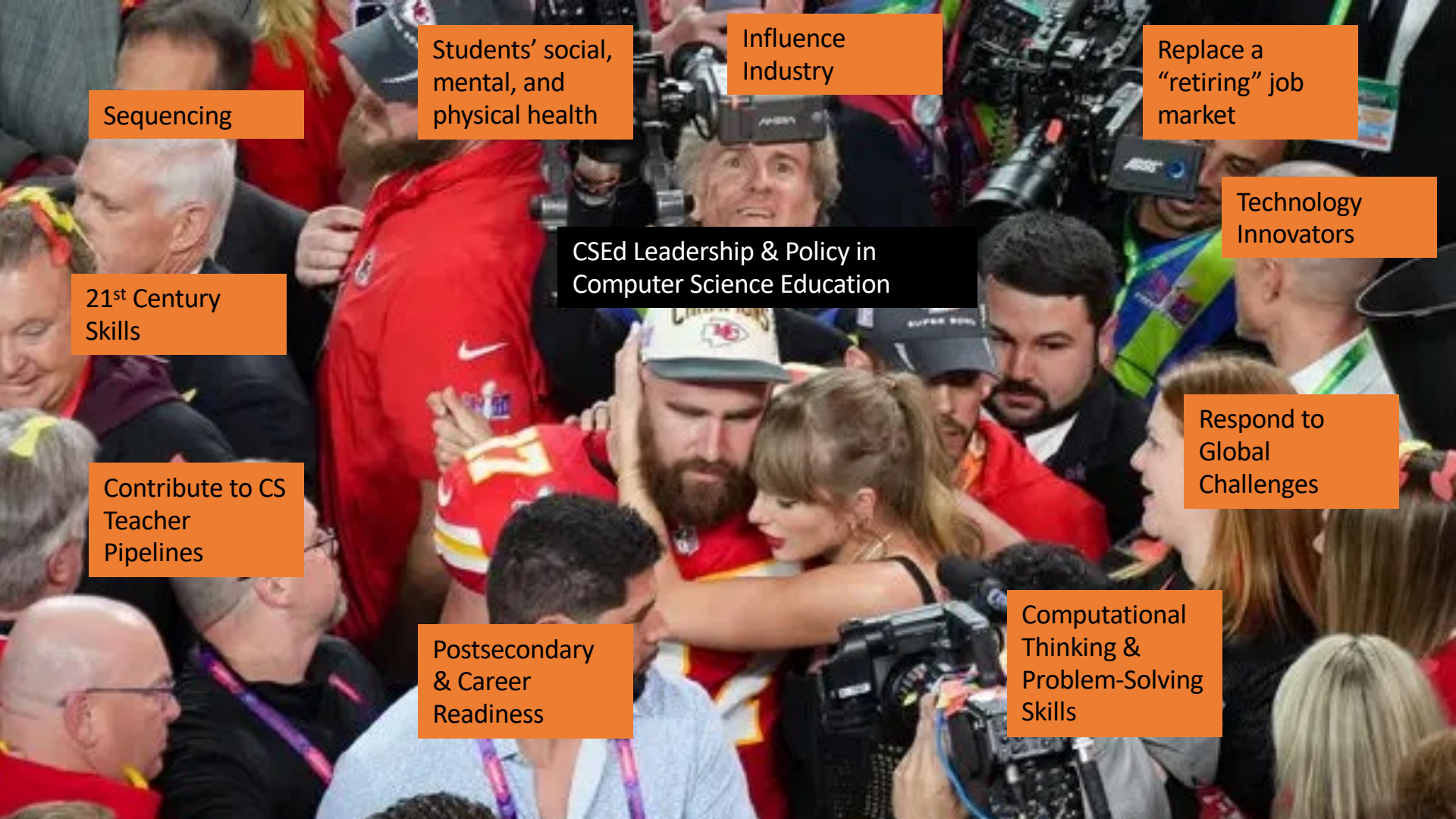
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- Organize the myriad of resources within a 'community' to support students' educational opportunities (Childs & Lofton, 2021)
- Influence organizational capacity (Russell et al., 2016)
- Leverage expertise & knowledge (Childs & Grooms, 2018)
- Influence of outside the "formal hierarchy" organizations on teaching & learning in CS education (Marshall & Grooms, 2022)





CSEd Leadership & Policy in  
Computer Science Education



Sequencing

Students' social, mental, and physical health

Influence Industry

Replace a "retiring" job market

21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

CSEd Leadership & Policy in Computer Science Education

Technology Innovators

Contribute to CS Teacher Pipelines

Respond to Global Challenges

Postsecondary & Career Readiness

Computational Thinking & Problem-Solving Skills



# ECEP State Leadership



**30** States & Territories

**189** State leaders

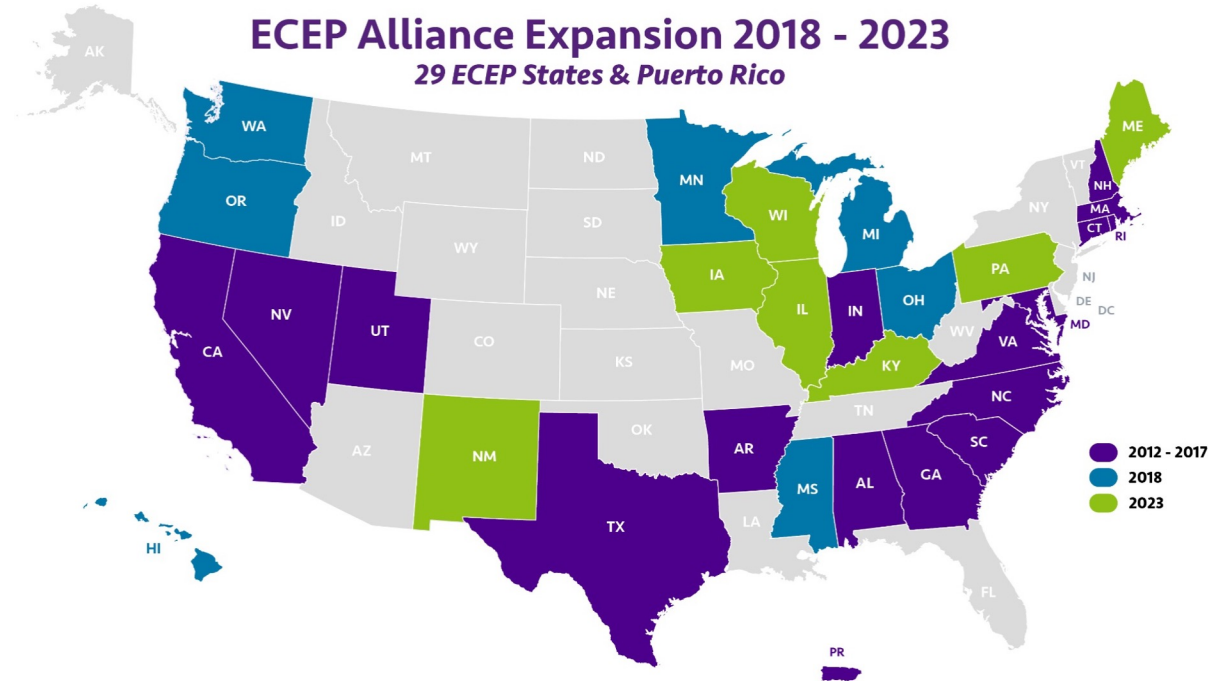
**66** IHE leaders

**58** Government/SEA leaders

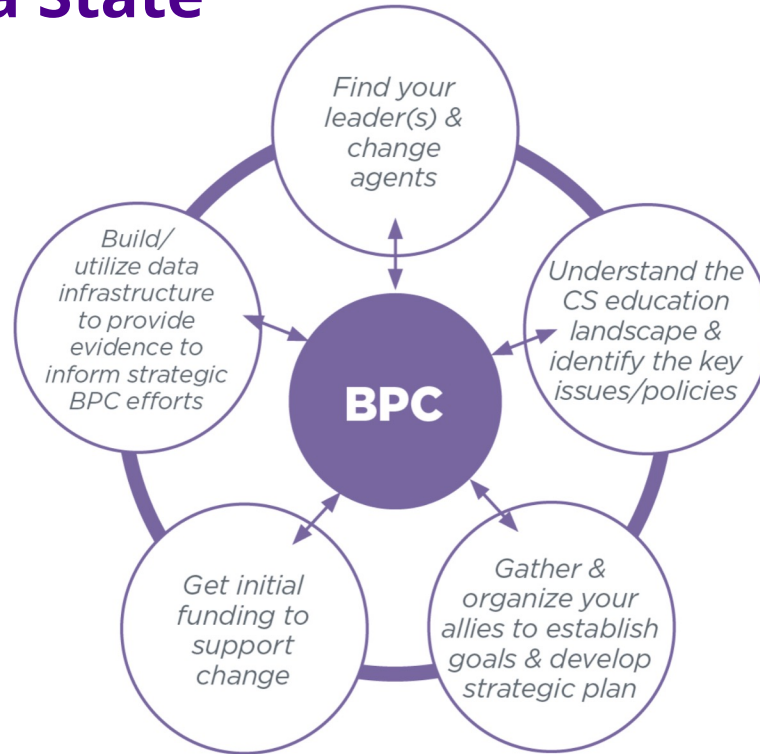
**30** Non-profit leaders

**19** K-12 education leaders

**9** Industry/Other



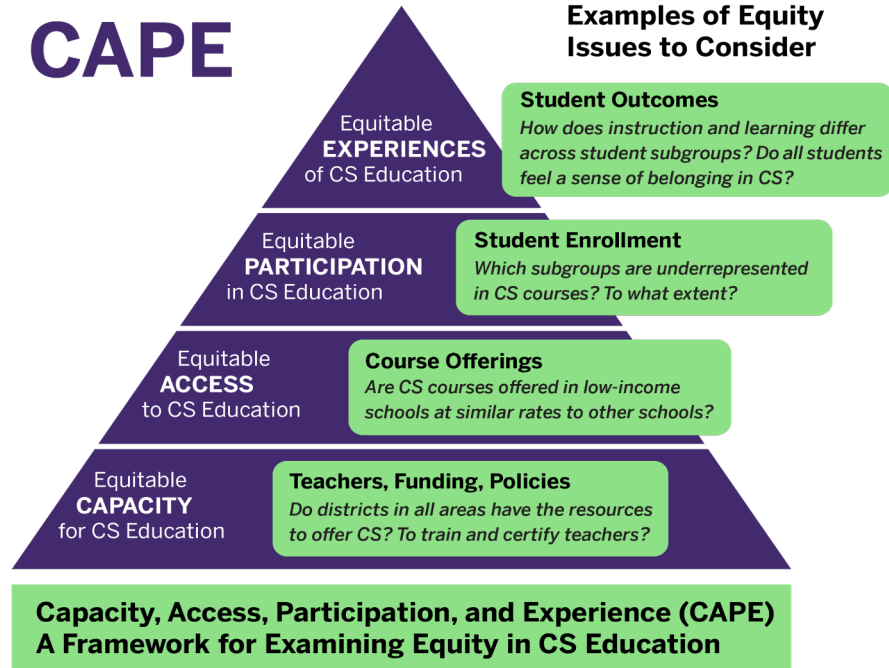
# Broadening Participation in Computing: How to *Change* a State



Ottensbreit-Leftwich, A. T., Dunton, S., Fletcher, C., Childs, J., Jeon, M., Biggers, M., Delyser, L.A., Goodhue, J., Richardson, D., Peterfreund, A., Guzdial, M., Adrion, R., Ericson, B., Fall, R., & Abramanka, V. (2022). How to change a state: Broadening participation in K-12 computer science education. *Policy Futures in Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14782103221123363>

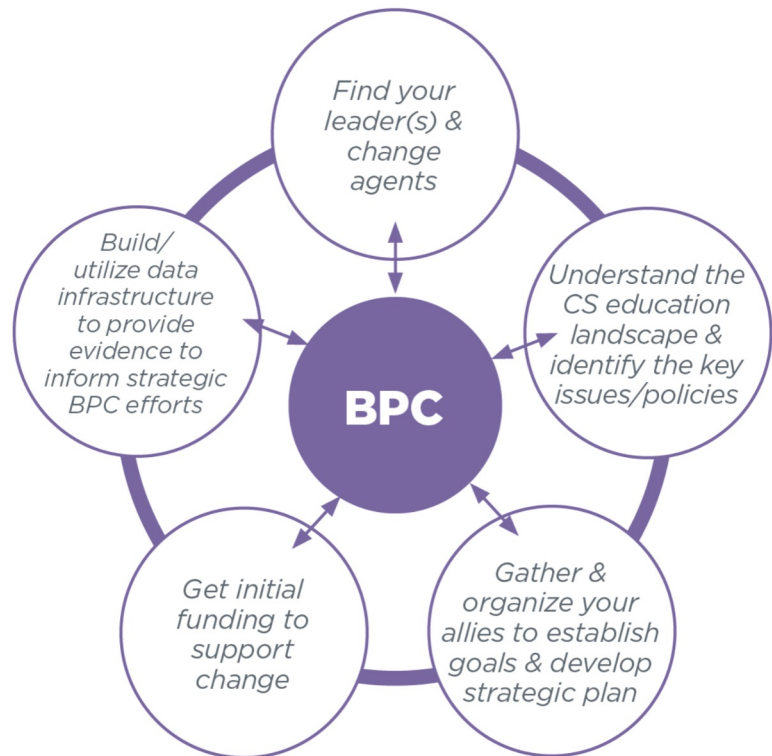


# Broadening Participation in Computing: How to *Support* a State

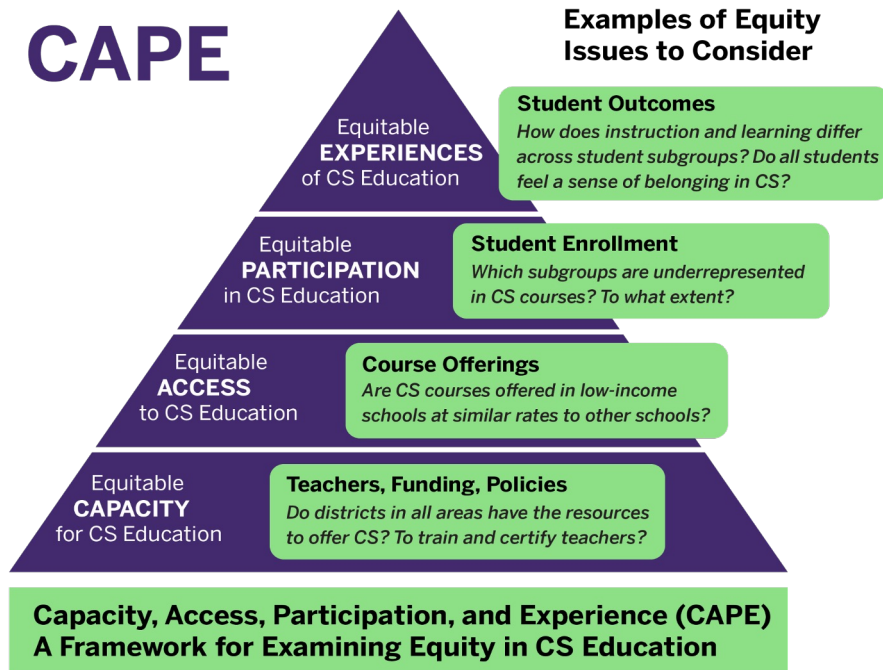


Fletcher, C.L., Warner, J.R. (2021, February). CAPE: A Framework for Assessing Equity throughout the Computer Science Education Ecosystem. Communications of the ACM, 64(2), 23-25. doi:10.1145/3442373

# Broadening Participation in Computing State by State



## CAPE





# Broadening Participation State by State



ECEP

Expanding  
Computing  
Education  
Pathways

2008

2012

2016

2018

2021

2023

GA and MA coordinate statewide BPC efforts.

Launched **ECEP Alliance** with 4 states

ECEP grows to **17 member states**

ECEP 2 expands to **23 member states**

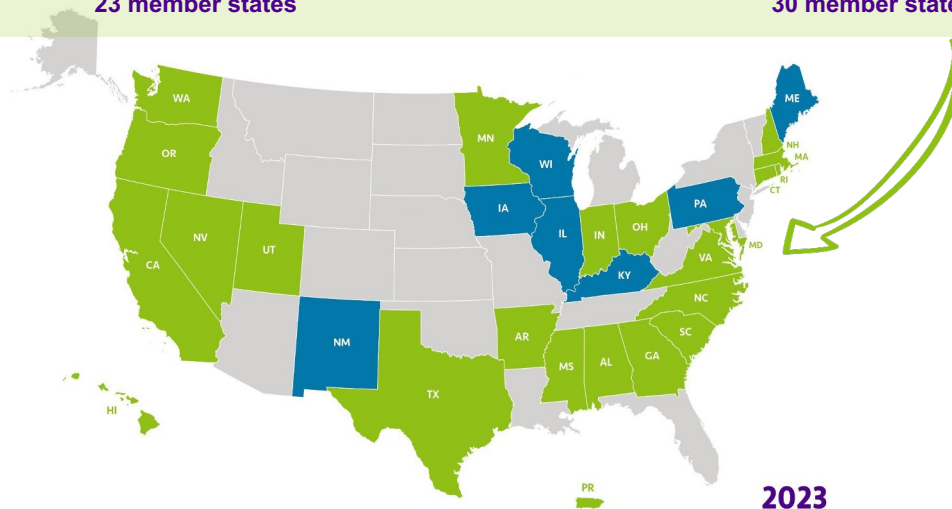
ECEP 3 awarded

ECEP expands to **30 member states**

ECEP's advocacy and policy efforts is impacting:

**33,514,100 K-12 students**

approximately **68%** of the total K-12 student population



# ECEP BPC Challenge

## GOAL

Increase equitable capacity for, access to, participation in, and experiences of K-12 CS education for historically underrepresented student populations at a state level.



# ECEP BPC Challenge

## GOAL

Increase equitable capacity for, access to, participation in, and experiences of K-12 CS education for historically underrepresented student populations at a state level.



## STRATEGY

Utilize collective impact to build the capacity of broad-based state leadership teams to implement equity-explicit, systemic changes in state policies, pathways, and practices.



# Types of CS Education Policies in ECEP States



ECEP

Expanding  
Computing  
Education  
Pathways

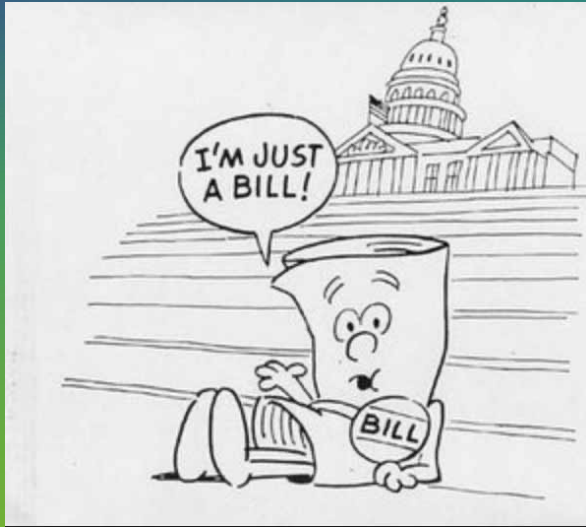
Garvin, M., Dunton, S. T., Trautmann, K., Childs, J., & Fletcher, C. (2024, May). Situating Equity in Education Policy to Advance Broadening Participation in Computing (BPC). In *Proceedings of the 2024 on RESPECT Annual Conference* (pp. 107-115).



ECEP

Expanding  
Computing  
Education  
Pathways

# State Laws



- CS education specific
- STEM education
- Library/media center education
- Teacher certification
- Dual enrollment
- High school graduation requirements
- Higher education admissions
- Pre-service teacher education

# Regulations



Education governing authority:

- State (Local) Superintendent
- State (Local) Board of Education
- State Department of Education

# Norms & Practices



- Priorities and/or competing time for other content disciplines
- Resources
- Funding
- Awareness
- Teaching & Learning

# Policy Language

- 15 ECEP states require public high schools to offer CS.
- 18 ECEP states have CS as a graduation requirement.
- 13 ECEP states have CS as satisfying part of the higher education admission requirements.





**BANNED**

- Some states, such as Texas, have banned the use of any student subgroup identification



- Other states, such as Maryland and Washington, identify student subgroups in policies.

# Systemic Structures

- **What is taught**
  - 21 ECEP states have CS Content Standards which provide structure.
- **Who can teach CS**
  - 20 ECEP States which have certification guidance in place.
  - 15 ECEP states are working with IHEs to provide opportunities for preservice teachers to learn CS.

# Systemic Structures

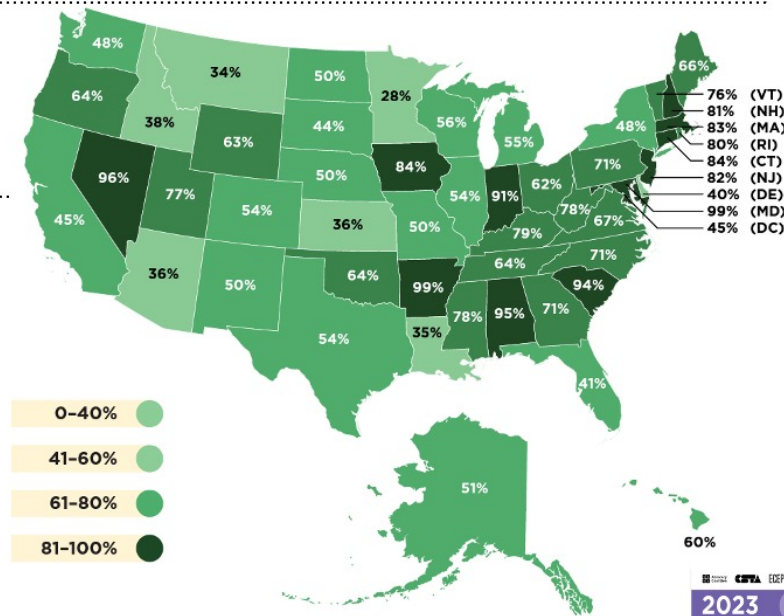
- **How CS as a content discipline is supported**
  - 18 ECEP states which have dedicated state funding to
    - convene task forces,
    - write and adopt CS state standards,
    - hire CS state specialists,
    - recruit CS teachers,
    - provide PD for in-service teachers,
    - create or enhance preservice teacher programs or courses,
    - hold strategic meetings at the state and local levels to implement and support CS instruction.

# Authority & Accountability

- Some states take a top-down approach with more decisions occurring at the state level often with a State Superintendent or Chief overseeing the SEA and working with a State Board of Education.
- Other states defer many public education decisions and governance to local boards of education and Superintendents of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) requiring a more of a grassroots approach to reform policy locally.
- 19 ECEP states which have a designated CS specialist at the state level.

# Click to add title

- **Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and New Hampshire** funded computer science education for the first time.
- **More than \$120 million** was allocated for computer science.
- Ten states have adopted multiple CSEd policies: **Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Nevada, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Washington.**
- **North Carolina, North Dakota, and Rhode Island** adopted a graduation requirement in computer science.



Code.org, CSTA, ECEP Alliance (2023). 2023 State of Computer Science Education. Retrieved from <https://advocacy.code.org/stateofcs>

# Implications for Policy & Practice



- Extend and build awareness around the CAPE framework to include directly targeted state policies (laws, regulations, and norms and practices).
- Support a reciprocal relationship between policy and research.
- Onboard new advocacy members to confront their own individual and group biases to fully comprehend the historical and current computing education context.
- Identify which types of policies govern or provide guidance on CAPE identified and assessed inequities.

# Implications for Policy & Practice



Beyond the ECEP Alliance states, other states and governance structures in other countries also benefit from this research.

- Identify current policies.
- Work with stakeholders and decision makers to make the necessary policy changes with the appropriate policy language.
- Leverage current CSEd policies to increase policy awareness.
- Inform strategic plans to situate equity in education policy to advance BPC.

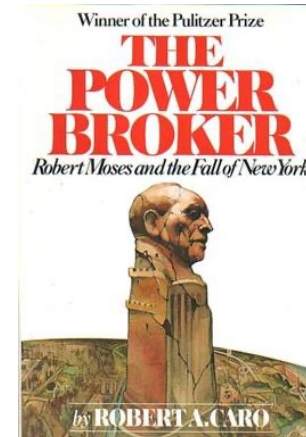


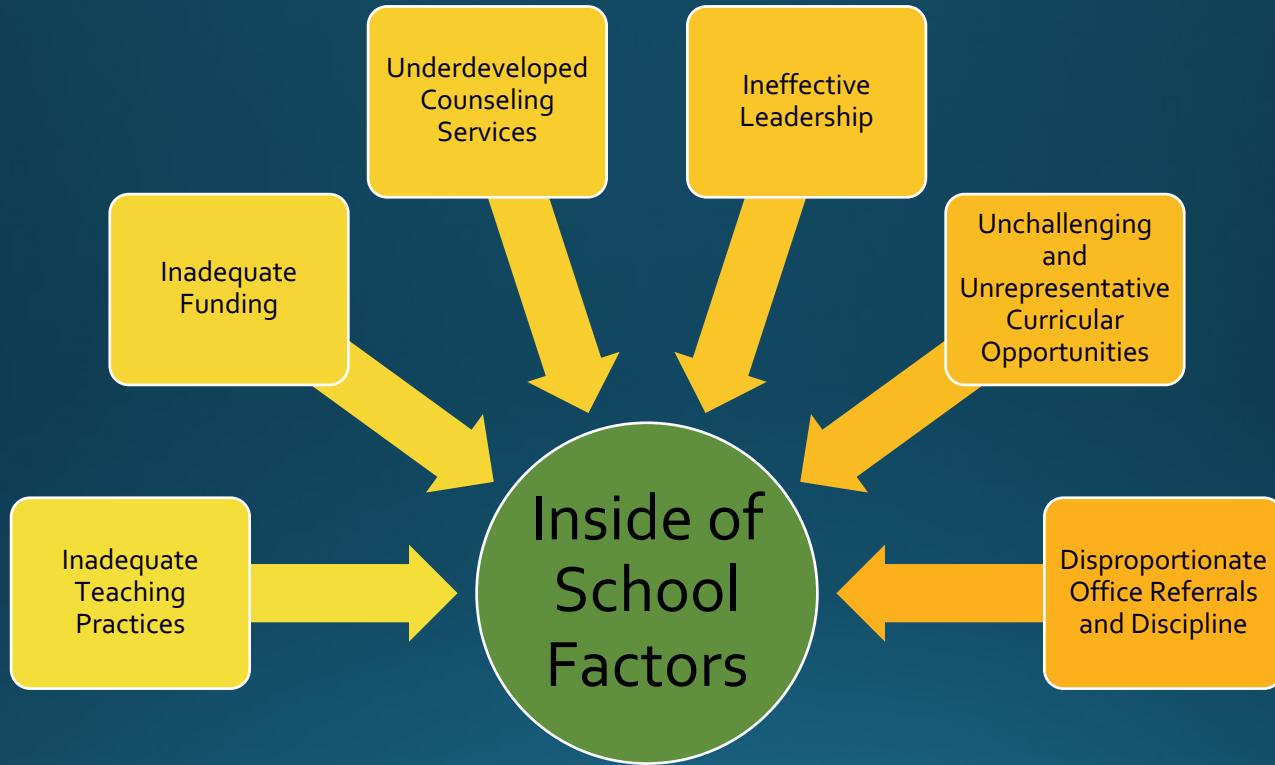
# To Consider...

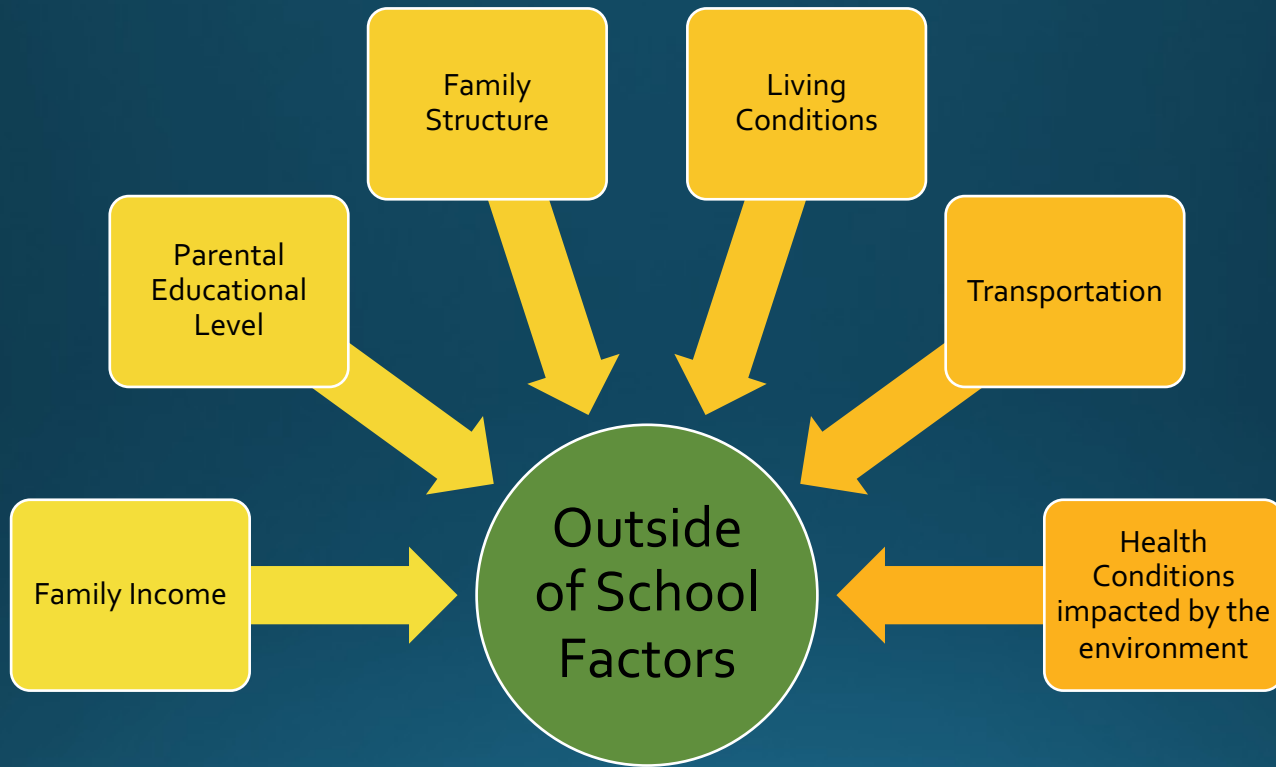
- What, if any, equity language is necessary to advance state CSEd policies?
- In what ways should CSEd leadership & policies impact the systemic structures in states?
- What role does accountability have in CSEd state policies moving forward?

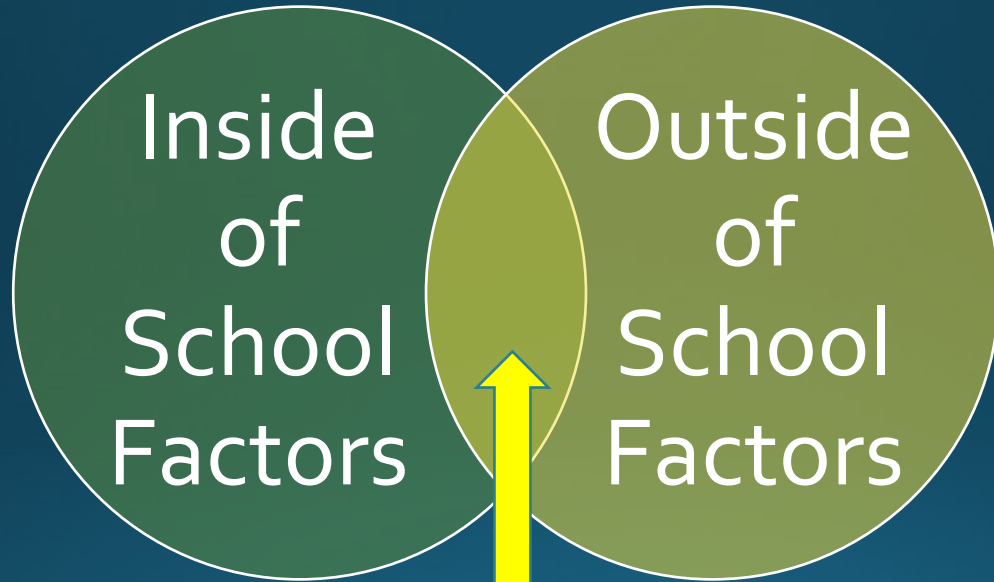
Without policies, frameworks, guidance that provide a different way of seeing & doing lenses for seeing & ways of doing....

- Ordered his engineers to build the bridges low over the parkway to keep buses from the city away from Jones Beach—buses primarily taken by with Black and Puerto Rican community members
- Communities of color neighborhoods bulldozed for urban renewal projects
- Policies created to discourage non-whites from certain parks and pools









CS Leadership & Policy



# Zones of a Student's Daily Life

Childs & Grooms, 2018; Childs & Lofton, 2021; Gottfried, 2014



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