

Amazon Teams Up with Chicago Public Schools to Bring Computer Science Education to 10 Elementary Schools, Serving More Than 5,000 Students

Funding from [Amazon Future Engineer](#) delivers teacher professional development and curriculum, including virtual opportunities, from [BootUp](#) – a nonprofit professional development provider specializing in elementary school education – that focuses on high-quality computer science concepts, practices, and standards for teachers and students

[Amazon Future Engineer](#) program aims to bring high-quality computer science access to students from high-needs communities across the country from childhood to career

[Chicago, IL] – [June 24, 2020] – Amazon has selected Chicago Public Schools to receive funding that will support additional computer science education and teacher professional development at 10 elementary schools serving more than 5,000 students in need. Of the 10 schools, all are Title I schools, which serve students who live in low-income communities. Amazon is working with [BootUp](#), a nonprofit professional development provider specializing in elementary school education, to bring computer science to each school as part of its [Amazon Future Engineer](#) program. Due to the uncertainty surrounding the upcoming school year, BootUp has modified its professional development work in a virtual setting without compromising the ability to model and discuss the same high-quality computer science concepts and practices.

High quality computer science education for elementary school students during their school day is a critical piece of Amazon’s “childhood to career” approach because it helps bridge equity skill gaps at an age when students are just beginning to formulate ideas about their futures. In addition to Chicago Public Schools, [Amazon Future Engineer](#) is funding computer science education for nearly 200,000 elementary school students, at more than 400 schools across the country and counting, including in Matteson, IL.

“Access to high quality STEM programming, including computer science, is not only central to our vision as a district, but it can open up a world of opportunities for our students,” said CPS Chief Education Officer LaTanya D. McDade. “This partnership will provide both innovative lessons for our students and training for our teachers, and we thank Amazon and BootUp for bringing this exciting opportunity to our classrooms.”

Chicago Public Schools is a national leader in its approach to expanding computer science through Computer Science for All (CS4ALL) - an innovative initiative that expands access to computer science curriculum, training and digital resources. The Amazon Future Engineer program will help Chicago Public Schools build upon the pillars of CS4ALL by expanding access to high-quality computer science programming to more elementary school students in high-needs communities.

“The Amazon Future Engineer program will help Chicago Public Schools equip more of our elementary school students, especially those from underserved and underrepresented communities, with computer science skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow. I am pleased to see this partnership and investment by Amazon, CPS and BootUp.” said Alderman Michael Scott, Jr., Chairman of the City Council Committee on Education and Child Development.

“We’ve been so impressed with the stories we hear of elementary school teachers who are going above and beyond to keep their young students engaged, nurtured, and smiling, especially during these difficult times,” said Jeff Wilke, CEO Worldwide Consumer, Amazon. “As virtual classrooms become more common, we are confident that a focus on younger students in need will be an important and timely asset for teachers as they prepare all of their students for a bright future.”

“This opportunity will close equity gaps by enabling professional computer science learning for students in under-served communities throughout the nation,” said Clark Merkley, BootUp’s Executive Director. “It’s truly one of the first national sponsorships focused on implementing sustainable, district-wide technology initiatives. We’re extremely proud to be a part of something that will have a measurable, positive impact for decades to come.”

This commitment to Chicago Public Schools is part of Amazon’s \$50 million investment to increase access to computer science/STEM education across the country, primarily through its childhood to career program, [Amazon Future](#)

[Engineer](#). In addition, Amazon has donated more than \$20 million to organizations that promote computer science/STEM education. Already in Illinois, there are more than 65 high schools part of the Amazon Future Engineer program, and three students who have received a \$40,000 Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship and guaranteed Amazon internship.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Amazon Future Engineer has extended the deadline for school districts to apply for elementary school computer science coursework through BootUp. BootUp is well prepared with virtual opportunities to account for the uncertainty of the current educational landscape. US school districts can apply [here](#). In addition, right now, Amazon Future Engineer is supporting [students of all ages](#) amid the COVID-19 pandemic with free, online curriculum.

About Chicago Public Schools

Chicago Public Schools is the nation's third-largest school district, serving 355,000 students in 642 schools. Our mission is to provide a high quality public education for every child, in every neighborhood, that prepares each for success in college, career and civic life.

About Children First Fund: The Chicago Public Schools Foundation:

The Children First Fund is the philanthropic and partnership arm of Chicago Public School (CPS). It serves as a knowledge hub and liaison between CPS and its community of partners, securing and organizing resources that advance CPS' mission to provide a high-quality public education that prepares every child in every neighborhood for success in college, career, and civic life. For more information, please visit <https://www.childrenfirstfund.org> or find us on social @ChiFirstFund.

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