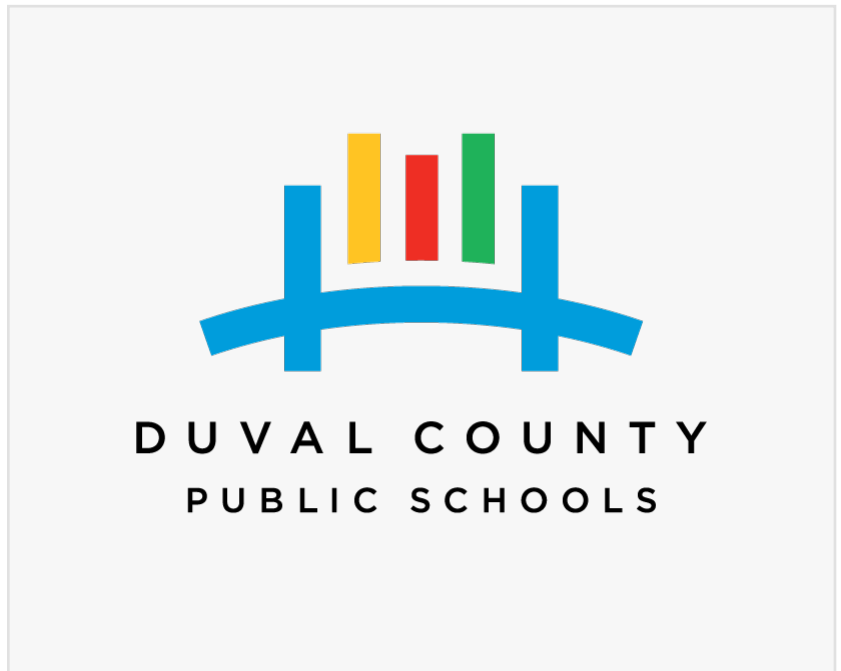


New Amazon grant to boost computer science education in Duval elementary schools

Duval County Public Schools is now part of Amazon Future Engineer's target to bring computer science to 500,000 elementary students by 2025.

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, August 2, 2023

/EINPresswire.com/ -- Amazon and [Duval County Public Schools](#) today announced that Amazon is funding computer science education and teacher professional development for elementary schools in the district -- impacting thousands of students from underserved communities and groups currently underrepresented in tech -- as part of its [Amazon Future Engineer](#) program.



Amazon is working with [BootUp PD](#), a nonprofit professional development provider, specializing in elementary school education, to bring computer science to each school. BootUp PD's typically

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Dr. Yvonne Spinner, Duval County Public Schools

in-person PD sessions adapt well to a virtual model and provide teachers with the tools they need to bring engaging coding lessons to their students both on-screen and in-person. 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.

Dr. Yvonne Spinner, the district's director of science, said the program's first phase will be to provide the

professional development curriculum to 16 pre-selected elementary schools. The computer science curriculum will eventually be expanded to all elementary schools within three years.

This initiative, said Spinner, is key to unlocking a future full of possibilities for students. "Amazon Future Engineer's groundbreaking initiative to introduce computer science to elementary schools marks an exhilarating leap forward in Duval County Public Schools," said Spinner. "It will simultaneously empower our children to master the language of innovation and technology, and elevate our teachers through state-of-the-art training. Equipped and inspired by BootUp's training, our educators will become catalysts of a digital revolution, while our students will learn to speak the language of tomorrow."

"Amazon Future Engineer is thrilled to hear how teachers continue to go above and beyond to reach young students and pique their interest in computer science," said Victor Reinoso, Global Director of Amazon's philanthropic education initiatives. "We are committed to offering high-quality curriculum, professional development, and benefits to support educators as they help their students build life-changing skills that leverage computer science and coding to bring their dreams to life, no matter what career they choose to pursue."

"This is the first ongoing national sponsorship focused on implementing equitable and sustainable computer science education that is available to all students district-wide," said BootUp's Chief Executive Officer Savita Raj. "We prepare educators and support districts in building long term programs that provide equitable access to computer science opportunities for all students. Through this partnership, we will build a community of curious, innovative, thoughtful learners who are ready to most brilliantly impact our futures."

Amazon's commitment to Duval County Public Schools is part of the company's ongoing efforts to increase access to computer science/STEM education across the country, primarily through Amazon Future Engineer. In addition, Amazon has donated more than \$20 million to organizations that promote computer science/STEM education. Already in Florida, 288 schools are participating in the Amazon Future Engineer program.

About Duval County Public Schools

Duval County Public Schools is the 20th largest school district in the nation, educating more than 129,000 students in over 190 schools. Its mission is to provide educational excellence for every school, in every classroom, for every student, every day. Visit www.duvalschools.org to learn more.

About Amazon Future Engineer

Amazon Future Engineer is a childhood-to-career computer science education program intended to inspire and educate millions of students from historically underrepresented communities globally, including hundreds of thousands of students in the U.S. each year. Students explore computer science through school curriculum and project-based learning, using code to make music, program robots, and solve problems. Additionally, each year Amazon Future Engineer awards 250 students with four-year, \$40,000 scholarships and paid internships at Amazon, as well as names 10 Teacher of the Year winners, awarding \$30,000 prize packages for going above

and beyond to inspire students in computer science and to promote diversity and inclusion in the field. The program is currently available in the U.S., UK, France, Canada, India, and Germany. For more information, visit amazonfutureengineer.com.

About BootUp Professional Development

BootUp PD is a national 501(c)(3) organization specializing in sustainable, multi-year, district-wide elementary computer science professional development focused on coding, computational thinking, creativity and problem-solving. Since 2015, BootUp has worked with more than 1,000 elementary schools in twenty-three states, directly impacting over 600,000 students. Through ongoing professional development, model teaching, and instructional coach support, BootUp prepares participants to become confident, innovative educators who engage students with meaningful, project-based, open-ended, age-appropriate coding activities.

Sponsorship applications are being accepted at: www.afebootup.smapply.org.

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