



CodeHS

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codehs.com/ISBECCC26-Slides

Designing Career-Ready Computer Science Pathways

Building scalable CTE pathways that prepare Illinois students for high-demand tech careers.

ISBE Career Connections Conference
May 6, 2026

Today's Agenda

1



Who's in the Room?

Quick audience poll + introductions

4



Curriculum Deep Dive

CodeHS tools, certifications, career center

2



CS as a CTE Pathway

Why it matters + Illinois landscape

5



Scaling Equity

Strategies for rural & small districts

3



Pathway Design Options

Course sequences for every context

6



Your Next Step

Resources, Q&A, and action planning

? Who's in the Room?

What best describes your role?

Teacher / Faculty

Administrator / Curriculum Director

EFE Director

Other

Does your school currently offer CS as a CTE pathway?

Yes, fully implemented

In progress / piloting

Exploring options

Not yet

Biggest barrier to CS as CTE?

Finding qualified teachers

Course sequencing / credits

Budget & resources

Admin buy-in

CS as a CTE Pathway: The Why



317,700

New CS job openings
projected every year
through 2034

BLS OOH, 2024

\$105,990

Median annual wage
for CS occupations
(May 2024)

BLS OOH, May 2024

58%

of IL high schools offer
CS - rural schools
only 39%

Code.org State of AI+CS, 2025

Illinois Right Now

- IL Public Act 101-0654
 - ISBE to develop K-12 CS standards
 - Schools to offer CS
- ISBE CS Equity Grant to fund district capacity
- IL SB 1920 (2025) requires statewide AI literacy guidance from ISBE
- No State Graduation requirements

CS is CTE - So why aren't more schools treating it that way?

- CS is already in the ISBE IT CTE pathway matrix
- Most schools offer one course - not a pathway
- One course = No Perkins V funding
- A pathway = Credentials + Sequence + Career Documentation

6 Core Principles of a CS CTE Pathway

Sequenced Courses



Intro → depth → specialization.
Not isolated electives.

Real-World Application



Projects that mirror actual tech careers.

Recognized Credentials



Verified skills students can put on a resume.

Scalable by Design



Works in any school.
No special facilities needed.

Data + Reflection



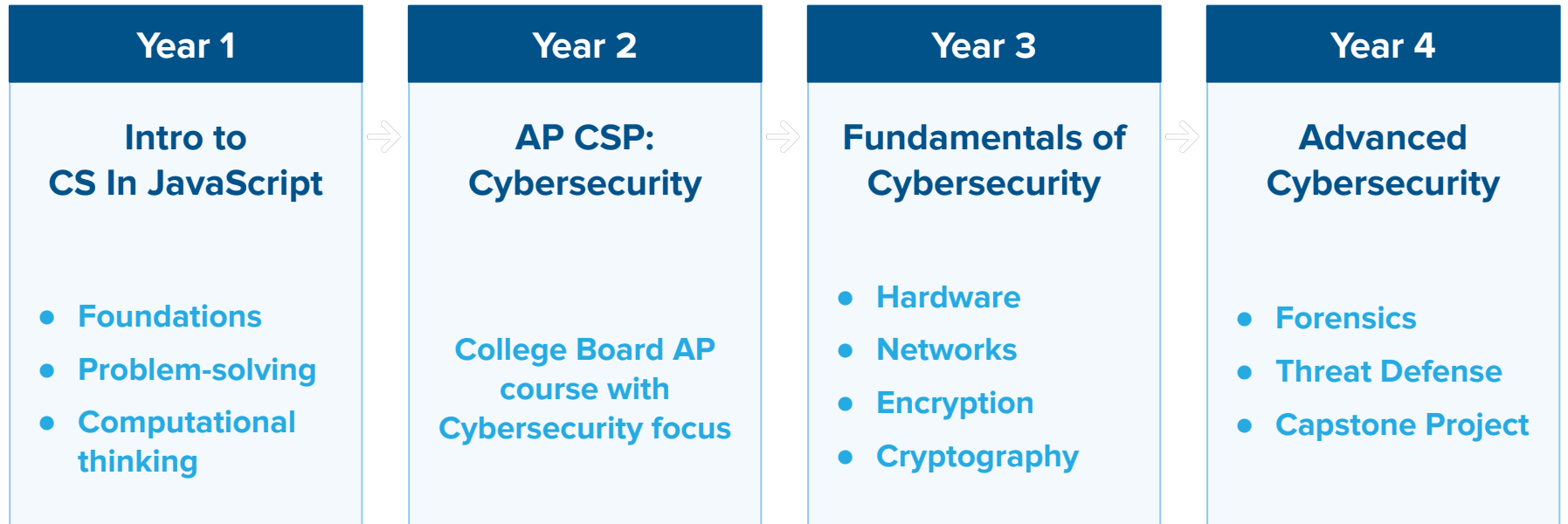
Track every student with built-in dashboards.

Equity First



No prior experience, hardware, or AP prereqs.

Pathway 1: Cybersecurity



Outcomes

4 CTE credits, AP Exam option, cybersecurity specialization, capstone project

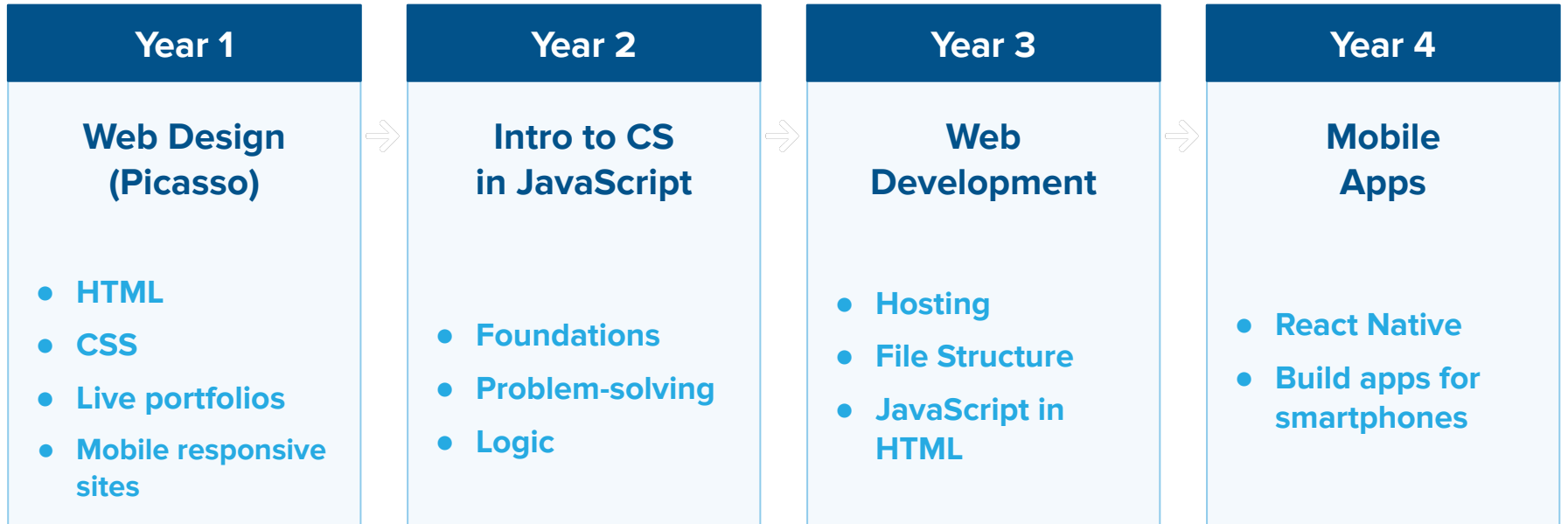
Credentials Available

Two CodeHS Cybersecurity Certifications, AP CSP exam

Perkins V Alignment

ISBE IT CTE matrix aligned, Perkins funding eligible

Pathway 2: Web Development



Outcomes

4 CTE credits, Live portfolio, full-stack and mobile skills

Credentials Available

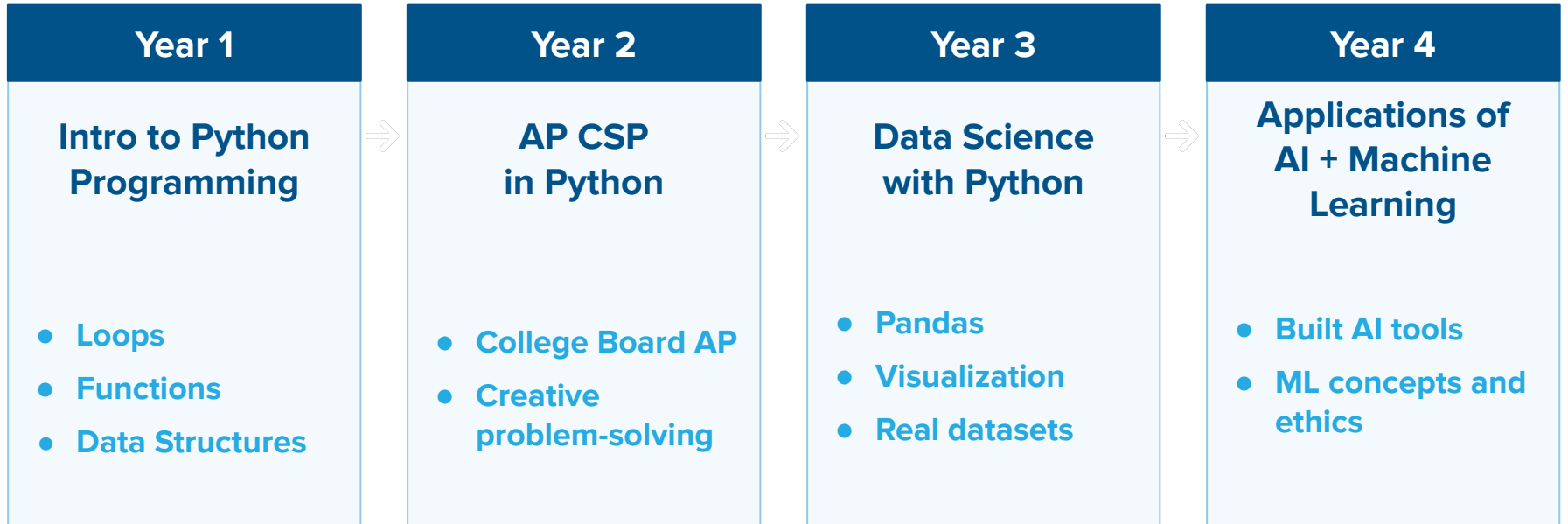
CodeHS Web Design and Web Development Certifications

Perkins V Alignment

ISBE IT CTE matrix aligned
(Web and Interactive Media Development),
Perkins funding eligible

Pathway 3: Python and AI

SB 1920 Ready



Outcomes

4 CTE credits, AP exam option, AI and data specialization

Credentials Available

CodeHS Python Certification, AP CSP exam

Perkins V Alignment

ISBE IT CTE matrix aligned, Perkins funding eligible

CodeHS: What's Inside



100% Web-Based

- No downloads
- Works on any device with a browser



Interactive Coding

- Students code live with instant feedback and auto-grading



Teacher Dashboard

- See every student's progress at a glance
- Flag who needs help



Student Certifications

- Verified, resume-ready credentials
- codehs.com/certifications



Career Center

- CS connects to 100+ careers
- codehs.com/careercenter



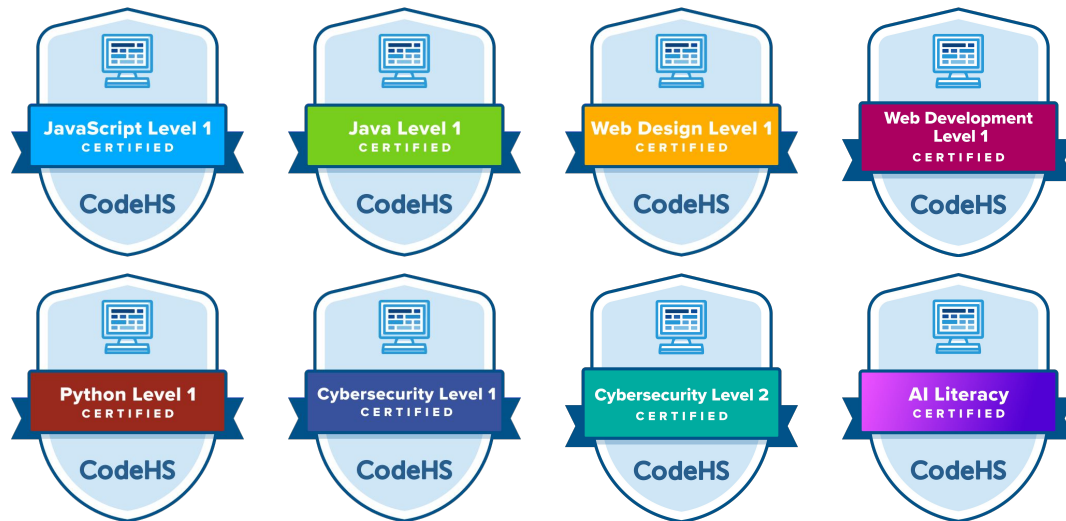
Project-Based Learning

- Every course includes real projects students can show off.

Student Certifications

Students who complete a CodeHS certification demonstrate verified, resume-ready skills that employers and colleges can see.

- [JavaScript Level 1](#)
- [Java Level 1](#)
- [Web Design Level 1](#)
- [Web Development Level 1](#)
- [Python Level 1](#)
- [Cybersecurity Level 1](#)
- [Cybersecurity Level 2](#)
- [AI Literacy](#)



codehs.com/certifications

CodeHS Career Center



Students see themselves in the future of work - not just coders, but the people behind every industry.



What Is the Career Center?

- An interactive hub inside CodeHS where students explore careers
- See how CS skills are used in healthcare, finance, sports, gaming, and more
- Connects coursework to real-world pathways and salary data
- Helps students articulate their learning to employers and colleges

codehs.com/careercenter

Sample Career Pathways Explored



Project-Based Learning in CS CTE

"Computational thinking is not about programming - it's about problem solving. CS gives students a framework to tackle any challenge."

1

Real Challenge

Students tackle authentic problems - not contrived exercises.

2

Research & Design

Plan, prototype, iterate using CS tools and computational thinking.

3

Build & Test

Code, debug, and refine in the CodeHS platform with instant feedback.

4

Present & Reflect

Share outcomes, document process, connect to career applications.



Sample Projects by Pathway

Foundations

Build a personal website with an About Me, hobbies, and future career goals

Cybersecurity

Analyze a simulated network breach and present a defense strategy

App Dev

Design and code a mobile-style app solving a real community problem

Data Science

Analyze a local dataset (school, sports, civic) and visualize insights

Making It Work Everywhere



You don't need a computer lab, a tech budget, or a CS background to launch a pathway. You need a plan.



Rural / Small District

- ✓ One CS teacher can run all 4 years
- ✓ CodeHS curriculum is self-paced, scaffolded
- ✓ No computer lab - Chromebooks work!
- ✓ Teacher Cohorts for professional learning



Mid-Size District

- ✓ Build a dedicated CTE CS department
- ✓ Multiple pathways running simultaneously
- ✓ Student certifications add credential value
- ✓ Career center links to local employers



Large / Urban District

- ✓ District-wide pathway rollout
- ✓ AP + non-AP tracks running in parallel
- ✓ Data dashboard for district-level insights
- ✓ Cohort-trained teachers across buildings

Teacher Support: CodeHS Cohorts

You don't have to figure this out alone. CodeHS Cohorts give educators the community, content, and confidence to teach CS - regardless of background.

- 01** Join a Cohort
- 02** Learn the Curriculum
- 03** Apply in Your Classroom

Join our free informational webinar on
May 21 at 4:00 PM CT to learn more
about the 2026–27 cohorts.
Sign up [here](#)

Applied AI for Educators

AP Cybersecurity

AP Computer Science Principles

AP Computer Science A (AP CSA)

Interested in joining a 26-27 teaching cohort? Submit the form [here](#) to express your interest.



Table Talk: Your Context

Talk with the person next to you. 3 minutes. Then we share out.

A

Which of the three pathway models is closest to what could work in your school or district right now - and what's one thing that would need to change to make it happen?

B

What's the single biggest barrier your school faces to treating CS as a full CTE pathway - and who in your building or district has the power to remove it?

C

If a student asked you 'What job would I get if I took all four years of your CS pathway?' - could you answer that today? What would it take to say yes with confidence?

Your Next Step

Take 60 seconds. Write down ONE action you will take in the next 30 days to move CS as a CTE pathway forward in your school.



**Explore CodeHS
curriculum
at codehs.com**



**Enroll in a
CodeHS
Teacher Cohort**



**Map a course
sequence
using today's
pathway models**



**Share this session
with your
admin or
curriculum director**

Key Resources

codehs.com/curriculum/pathways/k-12

codehs.com/FreePD

codehs.com/certifications

codehs.com/careercenter

Questions



Attendance

→ codehs.com/ISBECCC26-Attend

**Must be logged in to your CodeHS account

Workshop Survey

→ codehs.com/WorkshopSurvey

Complete the Workshop Feedback Survey



Thank You!



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*Scan / visit
codehs.com/ISBECCC26-LearnMore
to start exploring pathways for your school
today.*