

CS Champion Survey & Focus Group Findings



Joel Knudson, Francis Lee, and Ryan Torbey

A key component of California's Educator Workforce Investment Grant in Computer Science (EWIG: CS) is a network of Computer Science Champions (or CS Champions), each housed in one of the state's 58 county offices of education. These CS Champions design and deliver workshops to computer science educators and provide guidance and support for computer science to districts and schools. Survey and focus group data from CS Champions highlight key findings about the CS Champion experience and the interactions among members of the CS Champion network.

Findings About the CS Champion Experience

Key Finding 1: CS Champions articulated a shared understanding of their role and perceived their activities as being pivotal to increasing participation in computer science professional learning. Ninety percent of survey respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they understood their roles as CS Champions. Focus group participants' reflections aligned with the role definition articulated by members of the EWIG: CS planning team.

Key Finding 2: CS champions rated the EWIG: CS grant as effective at addressing some of the most significant barriers to expanding opportunities for computer science education. The two barriers for which CS Champions indicated that EWIG: CS was most effective at addressing were insufficient (a) training or professional development for computer science educators and (b) funding. Among a list of barriers to computer science expansion that CS Champions ranked by significance in their survey responses, these were the third and fourth most significant barriers, respectively.

EWIG: CS External Evaluation

The American Institutes for Research® (AIR®) serves as the evaluation partner for California's EWIG: CS investment. This overview is the second in a series of summaries of findings from the EWIG: CS grant.



Findings About the Network of CS Champions

Key Finding 3: EWIG: CS has succeeded in creating a community of computer science education advocates and role models across California. Social network analyses reveal a robust community in which members are connected to multiple other CS Champions. Focus group responses describe the value of relationships among members of this network.

In the network diagram exhibit, each blue dot represents a CS Champion. The lines between the dots represent an instance of communication between two individuals on at least one occasion outside the formal activities of the EWIG: CS grant. Within this network, 85% of CS Champions have at least five communication ties to other CS Champions, and 26% have at least 20 communication ties.

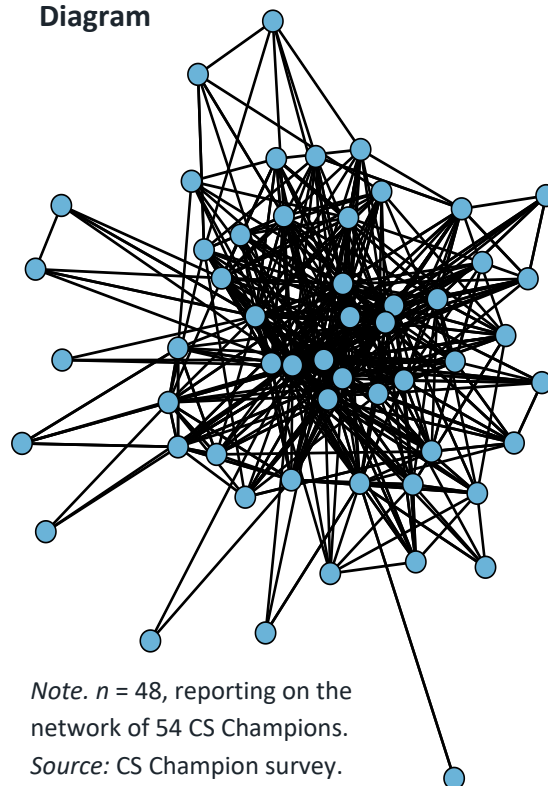
Findings About the Sustainability of CS Education Supports

Finding 4: More than half of CS Champions express confidence about their ability to support computer science education after the EWIG: CS grant expires, but the dynamics of the county office of education system pose challenges for doing so. Fewer than half of survey respondents (48%) agreed or strongly agreed that computer science education is a priority within their county office of education. Only 36% of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that there is sufficient funding in their county office of education to support computer science education.

For More Information

For a comprehensive set of findings about the CS Champion experience and for the full set of publications produced through AIR's EWIG: CS evaluation, please visit <https://www.air.org/project/evaluation-educator-workforce-investment-grant-computer-science>.

Exhibit. CS Champions Network Diagram



1400 Crystal Drive, 10th Floor
Arlington, VA 22202-3289
+1.202.403.5000 | AIR.ORG

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