

Take Action

For Education

A Guide for Tech Professionals &
Companies





Calling All Pythonistas



Community

Organizations

Individuals

Take Action in Your Community

1. Advocate for Policies that support equitable CS education

2. Engage with Local Schools to raise awareness and connect them with resources

1. Advocate for Policies that support equitable CS education

Engage with Local Government

What: Advocate for:

- Universal CS Graduation Requirements
- CS4All Initiatives
- CS Teacher Certification
- Funding Teacher Development
- Accessible Broadband Programs
- Additional Resources for Underserved Schools

How:

- Call or write to your government representatives
- Attend related town halls & school board meetings
- Donate to groups that work for policy change

2. Engage with Local Schools to raise awareness and connect them with resources

Engage with Local Schools

What: Encourage schools to:

- Offer CS courses and integrate CS into other subject areas
- Include all students in CS learning opportunities

How:

- Write letters to the superintendent and principal
- Present to the Parent Teacher Association
- Find out the needs of the school, connect them with relevant resources, and help find or raise funding

Community Action Resources

CSforAll

An organization working toward the goal of providing quality CS education to every child in the United States.

Code.org: CS Advocacy Site

Site that provides letter templates, out-of-the-box presentations and other resources related to CS education policy in the United States

CS Ed Week: Advocacy Page

Seven policy & advocacy actions to broaden participation in computer science

Important Note: We are actively seeking resources for advocacy for our global community. If you have resources for another region or country please send them to education@python.org to have them added to this toolkit.

Take Action as an Organization

1. Provide paid volunteer time and/or volunteer as a team

2. Host field trips and job shadow experiences

3. Hire & support a first time intern

4. Donate devices or software

1. Provide paid volunteer time and/or volunteer as a team

What:

- Run an Hour of Code event or family code night
- Provide paid time for employees to volunteer
- Provide flexible work schedules to enable employees to volunteer
- Adopt a school to establish and ongoing team volunteer relationship

Resources:

- [Code.org: CS Advocacy Site](#) - *Hour of Code event kit*
- [Computer Science Education Week](#) - *Guidance for running CS community outreach events, Guidance for speaking to students*

If you have resources for another region or country please send them to education@python.org to have them added to this toolkit.

2. Host field trips and job shadow experiences

What:

- Host field trips & job shadow experiences for a school group.
- Create a schedule for the trip that helps students learn about career options and see themselves in tech careers.
- Consider a panel talk and lunch with employees. Recruit employees who reflect the different types of diversity whenever possible.
- Focus on showing students how they can contribute and that they belong, rather than just showing off all the cool perks for employees.

Resources:

- [Nepris](#) - *Host virtual field trips*
- [Key-Up Education](#) - *Example of a local organization (North Carolina) that pairs companies and schools for field trips*

3. Hire & support a first time intern

What:

- Internships are an important way that students break into the tech industry. However, it is very difficult to get an internship if you've never had an internship opportunity in the past.
- Change how you consider internship candidates without a past internship. Actively recruit first time interns.
- First time interns often need ongoing support to learn the hidden expectations of internships. Make these expectations visible. Offer scaffolding and mentorship support.

Resources:

- [BreakThrough Tech](#) - Partners with companies to offer “sprinturnships,” supported three-week first-time internship experiences.

4. Donate devices or software

What:

- As a business, you follow a depreciation schedule to replace hardware consistently. Schools must hang onto their hardware as long as they can keep it running, even if it's barely running.
- While many districts earmark money for devices, they don't always have a budget for instructional software. Many teachers pay for instructional software out of pocket, especially at under-resourced schools.
- Build a relationship with a local school or district and donate hardware or software according to their unique needs.

Resources:

- [Donors Choose](#) - *Direct to classroom donations*

Take Action as an Individual



1. Volunteer

**2. Contribute
to open
source**

3. Be Visible

**4. Be a
Mentor**

1. Volunteer

What:

- Volunteer in a classroom
- Volunteer to run an afterschool club
- Volunteer with an informal education program

Resources:

- [TEALS](#) - *Volunteer in a high school classroom*
- [Code Nation](#) - *Volunteer in a high school classroom*
- [Girls Who Code](#) - *Run an afterschool club*
- [Code Club](#) - *Run an afterschool club*
- [Raspberry Jam](#) - *Host a school or community event*
- [Girl Scouts](#) - *Computer Science & Robotics badges*
- [Coder Dojo](#) - *Volunteer or start your own dojo*

2. Contribute to Open Source

What:

- Contribute to an open source python project related to education.
- Consider different types of projects including: platforms for beginners, frameworks & libraries useful for education, tutorials, and curriculum projects.

Contribute to the Python in Education project

- Technical, design, and content contributors all welcome!
- [Python in Education Website](#)
- [Python in Education on Github](#)

3. Be Visible & 4. Be a Mentor

Be Visible:

- Let students of all ages know, this is what a programmer looks like!
- It's important for students to see themselves in representations of programmers and tech industry professionals.
- Speak to student groups, write blogs or articles aimed at students, act as a mentor in the community.
- Don't expect other people who are part of under-represented groups in tech to take on this role. This is a personal decision!

Be a mentor:

- Volunteer to be part of a formal mentorship program at work or through a professional organization
- Act informally as a mentor at work or through local Python meetups



Do you have suggestions for strategies or resources that you'd like to see added to this toolkit?

Send them to education@python.org

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