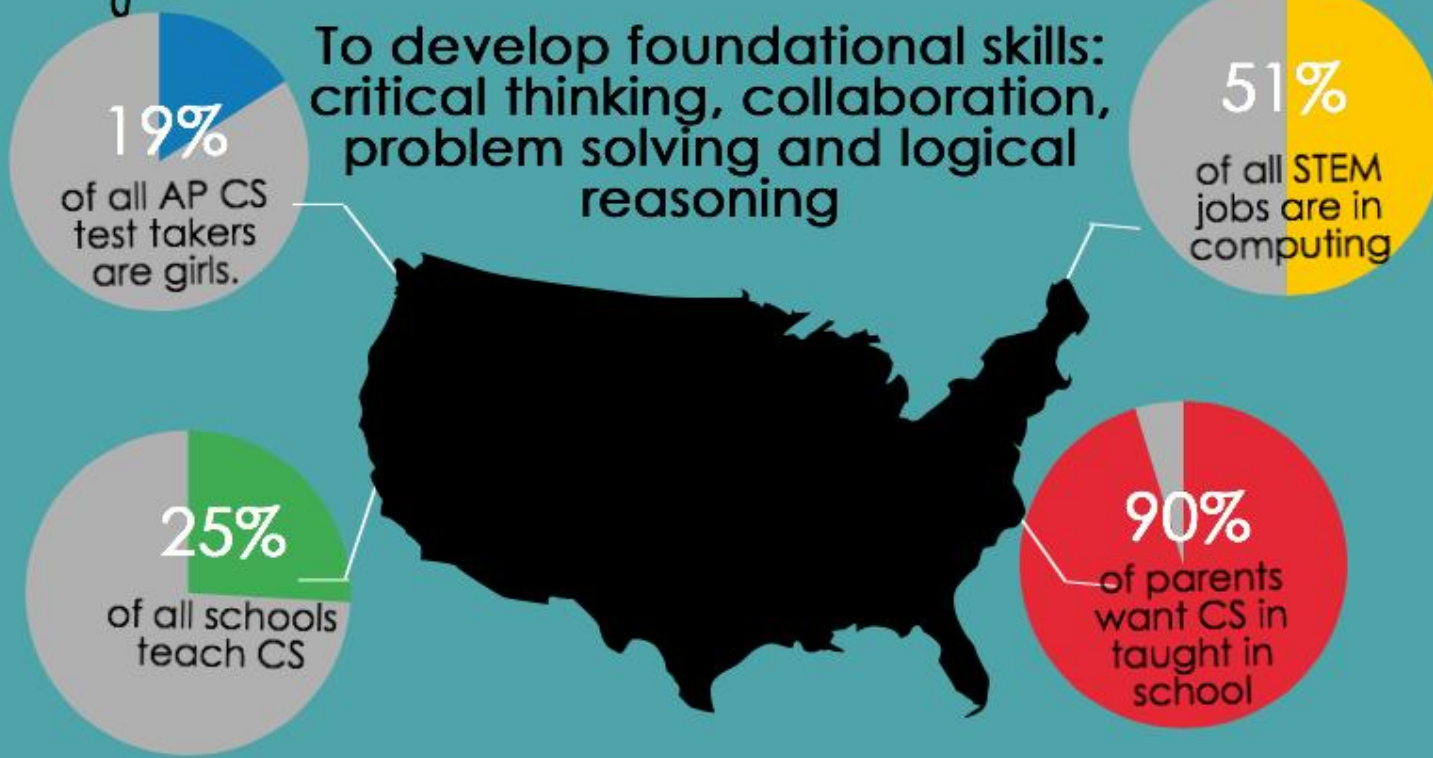


# What is COMPUTER SCIENCE and why access is important

Computer science involves the study of computers and computing applications, how they are designed, and how they impact society.

Learning to create and adapt new technologies is different from computer literacy or edtech, which focuses more on using existing technologies (e.g., word processing, spreadsheets or teaching tools).

## Why all kids should have access to CS in K12



Latino/a and African-American students make up 59% of California's public school students but were just 11% of 2014 AP CS test takers

Girls represent half of all CA students but are just 22% of AP CS test takers

### Underrepresentation in CS

California AP CS A Exam Participation (2012-13)

| Under-Represented Minority | % of HS Students | % of AP CS Test Takers | AP CS Pass Rate |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Female                     | 49%              | 22%                    | 72%             |
| African American           | 6.7%             | 1.5%                   | 57%             |
| Hispanic / Latino          | 51%              | 7.9%                   | 47%             |

Average pass rate for all students taking AP CS 76%

Source: CDE [Dataquest](#) and [The College Board](#)

## Computer Science Prepares Students for:

- 1 College
- 2 Careers
- 3 Civic Participation

Computing is in all disciplines: arts, finance, auto, entertainment, agriculture, health, journalism, manufacturing, security

Computing jobs are among the fastest growing and highest paying

Innovation with technology can make a positive difference in a global society

To learn more about computer science education equity in California, visit the Alliance for California Computing Education for Students and Schools and subscribe:  
[www.access-ca.org](http://www.access-ca.org)  
 or email Julie Flapan, Executive Director  
[flapan@gseis.ucla.edu](mailto:flapan@gseis.ucla.edu)