

From: Vivian V. Brownlow <brownlow.vivian@moesc.net>

Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 1:36 PM

To: Vanessa A. Wagner <wagner.vanessa@moesc.net>

Subject: RE: Out of state PD question

Dear Kevin,

I would like to ask permission to attend the CSTA (Computer Science Teachers Association) New England Regional Conference on November 11 – 12, 2022 at University of Massachusetts, Amherst College of Education. The conference fee is \$50, and the conference's negotiated hotel rate is \$119 / night.

The Computer Science Teachers Association, for which I hold premium membership, holds various conferences through the year to "empower, engage, and advocate for K-12 Computer Science teachers worldwide." The conferences are the best medium for professional networking, to get the latest resources available for computer science teachers, and to experience firsthand research-based teaching strategies and platforms available for teaching computer science in a K-12 classroom.

Since I started teaching various computer science and technology courses, then at Abraxas and now at F.I.R.S.T. School, I have had the opportunity to use a variety of cloud-based platforms provided by Massachusetts Institute of Technology and more recently Harvard University, both located in the New England area. Our students at F.I.R.S.T. School are currently able to learn through these free cloud-based platforms such as Github Classroom, Visual Studio Code / Visual Basic Editor IDE, and most recently MIT's App Inventor.

I have also recently become a part of a computer science network of teachers, CS50 for Educators through Harvard University, implementing an Advanced Placement course for Computer Science Principles all over the world through the CS50 Curriculum, the largest on-campus and online introductory computer science curriculum taught at Harvard University and Yale University. This network of teachers provides free support and share resources through a listserv, also hosted by Harvard. This network also provides free professional development and teacher training / workshops for CS teachers.

Through my CSTA New England network, I can hone my craft in teaching computer science and other computing / technology related classes to our students at F.I.R.S.T. School in the hopes of preparing our students to college level learning and career ready skills in the 22nd century.

Sincerely,

Vivian Brownlow

**Computer Science Teacher
Intervention Specialist**



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"F.I.R.S.T. School is a holistic, student-centered, culturally responsive community that provides diverse opportunities for all learners to succeed."