



TEXAS ADVANCED COMPUTING CENTER

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

J.J. Pickle Research Campus • Advanced Computing Building (R8700) • 10100 Burnet Road  
Austin, Texas 78758-4497 • Phone: (512) 475-9411 • Fax: (512) 475-9445 • [www.tacc.utexas.edu](http://www.tacc.utexas.edu)



WeTeach\_CS

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Massachusetts Department of Education

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my distinct privilege to write this letter of recommendation for BootUp PD to become an official provider for districts in your state. I have worked closely with BootUP PD this past year as we worked with three inner city schools in New York City to support the integration of computational thinking into their core curriculum. The goal of the work has been to leverage computational thinking as a vehicle for improving student engagement, self-efficacy and achievement in core academic areas such as mathematics and ELA.

BootUp PD is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit, with experience implementing district and school-wide CS initiatives with a focus on elementary computational thinking, creativity, and problem-solving. BootUp has worked with over 250 elementary schools in eight states, impacting over 120,000 students since 2015. BootUp prepares teachers to facilitate open-ended coding projects in the free platforms Scratch and ScratchJr that are not only project-based, but also personally meaningful. Students pick something that is interesting to them and find a way to explore that interest with code through design, music, art, animation, games, or stories.

One of the strengths of BootUp's program is their collaboration with each school to design a PD schedule that works with their current school infrastructure. Each school's teachers participate in BootUP's professional development program to build their capacity to develop computational thinking skills in their students as they work on project-based lessons. The teachers are also supported through model teaching and coaching by BootUp's outstanding staff. I have observed their staff as they interact with teachers and they are an amazing group of master teachers that have a passion for computer science and computational thinking and are experts at developing teacher capacity for computational thinking.

It is my firm conviction, that Massachusetts will be making a wise decision to include BootUp PD as an official provider for the state. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for more information.

Sheryl Roehl

**Sheryl Roehl, Ed.D.**, EPIC Partnership Coordinator

The University of Texas at Austin | [TACC](http://TACC) | Expanding Pathways in Computing (EPIC)  
| [sroehl@tacc.utexas.edu](mailto:sroehl@tacc.utexas.edu) | 361-571-4153 | [WeTeachCS.org](http://WeTeachCS.org) | [@weteachcs](https://twitter.com/weteachcs)