

For Immediate Release

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## APH Celebrates the Future of Coding Tools for Children Who Are Blind or Low Vision

LOUISVILLE, KY. (August 12, 2025) – American Printing House for the Blind (APH) is pleased to announce progressive achievements for <u>Code Jumper</u>. Code Jumper, launched in 2020, teaches students who are blind and low vision the foundations of computer programming. Originally designed by Microsoft Research and further developed by APH, this educational tool bridges the skills gap and opens the world of coding to all students.

"It is so exciting to see how APH has extended what we originally designed to help kids go from learning the basics to grasping the tools of professional software engineers," said Cecily Morrison, Senior Principal Research Manager at Microsoft.

Code Jumper, available for purchase at a new low price for \$534, works by bringing coding to life in the hands of children, through tactile brightly colored plastic pods with oversized buttons and knobs that are connected by "jumper cables" (thick cords). Children not only learn basic programming concepts, such as sequence, iteration, selection, and variables, but are encouraged to think computationally, such as solving the same challenge in multiple ways. Most importantly, any teacher can facilitate Code Jumper lessons without prior computer science experience. Code Jumper is a fun coding tool for the entire classroom.

"Coding not only prepares kids for a possible career in tech, it empowers them with essential skills for navigating the ever-evolving digital world, which is crucial for students who are blind or low vision," stated Greg Stilson, APH Head of Global Technology and Innovation. "We were honored to work alongside Microsoft Research on the development and launch of Code Jumper and are equally as excited to start work on a new generation of coding building blocks."

Students can now create their own musical masterpieces in Python code with <u>CJ Threads</u>, Code Jumper's new coding module! With CJ Threads, students explore an exciting feature in the app they already love. CJ Threads allows students to use the Code Jumper app to write Python code, compose songs, and revisit favorite block-based programs. As they progress, they'll learn essential coding fundamentals in a real coding language while

creating their own musical compositions. Plus, CJ Threads now supports up to six threads (compared to four in the physical kit), multiple loops (more than the two available previously), and multiple pods.

<u>Code Jumper Puzzles</u> can be downloaded for free from the <u>Code Jumper</u> website. Additional apps and updates are in the works.

## **About American Printing House**

American Printing House is a leader in designing innovative lifelong learning solutions for children and adults who are blind or low vision. We believe in the power and necessity of learning to open the doors to educational success, satisfying employment, and personal well-being. We level the learning playing field for students who are blind or low vision by providing specialized technology, materials, products, and services that are essential for education and life.