



# The AI Readiness Report

April 2026

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April was a month of convergence for aiEDU — at the ASU+GSV Summit in San Diego and in conversations with funders, educators, and policymakers. The thread connecting it all is one we keep coming back to: AI Readiness is no longer optional; it's essential to help every student live, work, and thrive in the age of AI.

This edition highlights two milestones we're especially proud of: the launch of an 18-month statewide planning initiative in Michigan, supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the first-ever national cohort of Spark the Future, our flagship train-the-trainer experience now open to educators across the country.

## Funder Spotlight

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With support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, aiEDU launched an 18-month statewide planning initiative in Michigan in 2026 to better understand the state's unique needs and begin building the foundation for AI literacy and readiness across K–12 schools and communities.

The momentum is already growing. In the first quarter of 2026, aiEDU established active partnerships with Michigan Virtual and University Prep Schools, while advancing conversations with school districts across the state. We also launched a professional learning community for rural district leaders and welcomed 13 Michigan educators into a Midwest cohort of aiEDU's Trailblazer Fellowship, part of a broader network of 35 educators committed to leading this work.

In the months ahead, aiEDU will continue convening policymakers, educators, philanthropic leaders, and district partners to help co-create a shared vision—and a practical roadmap—for AI readiness across Michigan.

If you'd like to learn more or explore ways to support this work in Michigan, please reach out to Kristen Kayser ([kristen@aiedu.org](mailto:kristen@aiedu.org)) and Josh Westfall ([josh.westfall@aiedu.org](mailto:josh.westfall@aiedu.org)).

## Spotlight Event: ASU+GSV Summit

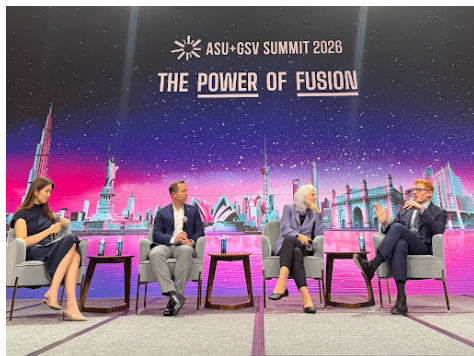
We had a whirlwind week in San Diego with friends and colleagues — co-hosting a vibe coding workshop for funders and speaking on three panels about AI readiness, durable skills, and the future of work.

### Vibecoding Workshop for Philanthropy Leaders



Earlier this month, aiEDU attended the annual ASU+GSV Summit in San Diego. The Sunday before the conference aiEDU co-hosted a vibe coding workshop with Quill, Career Village, Gates Foundation, NewSchools Venture Fund, Stuart Foundation, Education Funder Strategy Group, and EdSolutions for 30 funders and nonprofit partners. The workshop was designed to accommodate the full spectrum of learners using AI tools—from beginners to those who are well along their AI learning journey. The activities were tool agnostic, with the goal to provide attendees the opportunity to go beyond chatbots to help folks use AI to write software code, unlock new possibilities, and replace the skepticism and fear around AI with curiosity, creativity, and agency.

## Beyond the Pilot: AI's Real Impact on Learning Systems



- Alex Kotran, CEO & Founder, aiEDU
- Candace Thille, Professor, Stanford University
- Kevin Mills, Head of Education & Government GTM, OpenAI
- Claire Zau, AI Lead & Partner, GSV Ventures

## What Skills Matter Now?: How Districts Redesign Readiness for an AI-Driven Workforce



- Christian Pinedo, Vice President, External Affairs & Advocacy, aiEDU
- Carlo Salerno, Managing Director, Burning Glass Institute
- Emily Seefeldt, Director of Teaching & Learning, Red Wing Public Schools

## Durable Skills + AI Fluency: Preparing Youth for the Future of Work



- Alex Kotran, CEO & Founder, aiEDU
- Lisa Dughi, CEO, NAF
- Zarek Drozda, Executive Director, Data Science 4 Everyone
- John Branam, Executive Director, Get Schooled
- Jaime Casap, Purpose Education Evangelist

## Opportunities for Educators

### Join aiEDU's First-Ever National Spark the Future Cohort

Educators across the country are being asked to help their schools navigate AI — but many are doing it without the training or support to lead that work confidently. That's why aiEDU is launching the first-ever national cohort of Spark the Future, our signature train-the-trainer experience designed for educators who are ready to

become trusted leaders in AI readiness within their schools and districts and, most importantly, to support colleagues and peers on their learning journeys.

Previously offered only as a district-based program, Spark the Future is now available to individual educators and smaller district teams who want access to this high-impact professional learning experience. Registration opens April 27 and 90-minute live sessions are on June 4, 11, and 18. As part of the program, participants who complete the experience will also receive **30 licenses to aiEDU's *Teaching for Tomorrow* course** to extend learning with colleagues in their own communities.

## New Release: Elementary Explorations on Responsible AI Use



**Developed to help students in grades 3–5 think critically about how, when, and why they use AI.**

This new Responsible AI Use collection helps students in grades 3–5 begin exploring an important question: *How can we use AI in smart and responsible ways?* Through hands-on 20-minute activities, students practice choosing when AI can be helpful, recognizing when people should make the final decision (not AI), and understanding the difference between using AI as a tool for learning versus letting it do the thinking for them.

## AI Readiness in the News

**Substack** (4/9/26): Insights from 7 Vibecoding Workshops in 4 Weeks

**aiEDU Studios Podcast** (4/9/26): Toni Wan, Head of Platform at Reach Capital — AI is Raising the Bar, Are Schools Keeping Up

**The Hill** (4/12/26): As AI Pushes Students to Reconsider Majors, Universities Struggle to Adapt

**aiEDU Studios Podcast** (4/16/26): Kaya Henderson, former Chancellor of DC Public Schools — Why the Former DC Schools Chancellor Says We're Underestimating Kids

## Looking Ahead

### May 4–8

National Teacher Appreciation Week

### May 6–8

NewSchools Summit

aiEDU pre-summit vibecoding workshop on May 6 at 4:15 PM PT  
San Francisco, CA

### May 7–9

AI+Expo (hosted by Special Competitive Studies Project)

Washington, DC

### May 12–13

Partnership Meetings

Seattle, WA

### May 15

National Council of State Education Associations (NCSEA) Spring Convening

Houston, TX

## 2026 Funders

Amazon   Booz Allen Hamilton Inc.   Charter School Growth Fund   Cognizant   Google.org

The J.M. Smucker Co.   NetApp   Northrop Grumman Foundation   Okta

Patrick J. McGovern Foundation   Pull Up Fund   Raikes Foundation   Salesforce Foundation

Stuart Foundation   W.K. Kellogg Foundation

*"The AI Readiness Report" is aiEDU's monthly newsletter for the philanthropic community to provide insights on our work, what we're hearing in the field, and the latest news on AI Readiness to share with your leadership and stakeholders as you see fit.*

*The AI Education Project (aiEDU) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, founded in 2019, that is devoted to ensuring all students are ready to live, work and thrive in a world where AI is everywhere.*