



# The AI Readiness Report

June 2026

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While May was about visible momentum, June was about deepening the foundation underneath it. This month brought a renewed multi-year commitment from Google.org to scale AI readiness for educators nationwide, a seat at the table with influential K–12 education advocates, and the groundwork for a summer of national convenings and new program launches.

## Thought Leadership & Advocacy

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### **New Teachers Union 10-Point Plan**

Earlier this month, Alex Kotran attended two closed-door roundtables with national media, with special invitation from AFT President Randi Weingarten. The discussion series follows the release of AFT’s 10-point plan to address technology and AI in the classroom.

### **AI’s Impact on the Job Market for Recent Grads**

Alex recently spoke with Susan Hogan at NBC4 Washington about advice for students and parents trying to make sense of all the headlines about AI and the impact on jobs. Their conversation was captured in the episode of *Susan Makes \$ense* “[How to secure a job after graduating college in the world of AI.](#)”

## Spotlight Event

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### **Beyond Efficiency: Reimagining School with AI — Transcend Retreat**

aiEDU was invited to lead a session, “Beyond Efficiency: Reimagining School with AI,” at Transcend’s organizational retreat on June 16. Christian Pinedo and Kristen Kayser designed and facilitated the session, pushing beyond the usual “AI saves time” framing to explore how AI can reshape what teaching and learning look like in the field. The session earned rave reviews

from the Transcend team, and the activities are already being repurposed into aiEDU's future professional learning builds. It's a sign of the trust aiEDU is earning among leading school-design organizations by being asked to lead the conversation, not just be part of it.

## Teacher Spotlight

Our Spring 2026 Trailblazer Fellowship has concluded with 122 educators across 30 states receiving certificates of completion. As the cohort closes, we're celebrating the educators who made it their own. Here are three of their stories:

- **Kelsey Gillespie**, a third-grade teacher in Perkins Local School District, Ohio, who came to AI looking to learn and became the innovator her students and colleagues needed.
- **Dionna Rogers**, a lead teacher and AI Champion serving East Harlem Elementary and Middle Schools in New York.
- **Cassie Owens Moore**, a school librarian at Seneca Middle School in South Carolina, working at the intersection of every subject, grade, and learner.

## Opportunities for Educators

### FREE AI Readiness Training

Through our partnership with the National Applied AI Consortium (NAAIC), this NSF-funded program gives high school teachers free AI professional development, industry-recognized certifications, and classroom-ready resources. Up to 75 educators can [join a national 5-session cohort](#) starting August 4, 2026, pairing virtual evening sessions (Tuesday or Thursday) with asynchronous classroom application to help teachers implement aiEDU's industry-aligned curriculum through peer review and action planning.

## AI Readiness in the News

**The 74** (6/4/26): Alex was quoted in *Weingarten: Kids' Attention Crisis Demands Widespread Curbs on AI and Tech*

**aiEDU Studios Podcast** (6/4/26): Jennifer Husbands, Education Philanthropy Advisor — [“Why Schools Don't Need Another Silver Bullet”](#)

**aiEDU Studios Podcast** (6/11/26): Wim Sweldens, Author and Co-Founder of Kiswe — [“Why AI Keeps Failing at Things It Should Nail”](#)

**aiEDU Studios Podcast** (6/18/26): Sarah Morgenthau, President & CEO of the “I Have a Dream” Foundation and Michael Barrett, UPenn Trustee — [“Is College Still Worth It? A](#)

UPenn Trustee Answers”

**Press Release (6/24/26):** Google.org Renews Support for aiEDU to Scale AI Readiness for Educators Nationwide

## Looking Ahead

### June 28–July 1

ISTE Live 26 Conference

Lindsay presenting with Leading Educators

Orlando, FL

### July 7–8

2026 National Forum on Education Policy

Christian attending

Washington, DC

## 2026 Funders

Amazon   Ballmer Group   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.*