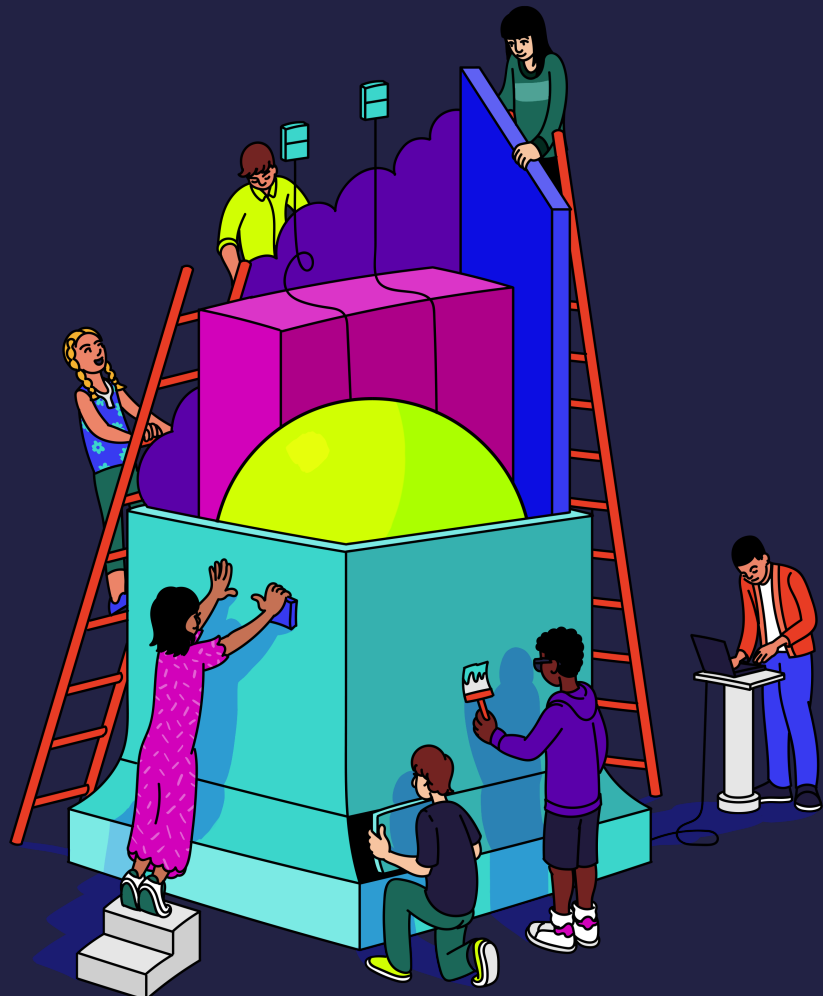


AN UPDATED PROPOSAL • AUGUST 2026

Empowering Bay Area **educators** & **students** to lead the age of AI

A two-year partnership pairing foundational AI fluency with the country's first student AI Builder curriculum — built in the Bay Area first.





Executive summary

The Golden State Community Foundation [together with IREN] is partnering with The AI Education Project (aiEDU) — the nation's leading AI readiness education nonprofit, whose curriculum reached more than 1.1 million students in 2025 — to bring a first-of-its-kind program to Bay Area young people. The partnership pairs aiEDU's proven foundational AI fluency work — built for students with no prior AI background, in settings with any level of technology access — with something that exists nowhere else in the country: a graduated, project-based AI Builder curriculum, embedded in the subjects students already take, that moves students from understanding AI to building with it. And because lasting change runs through the adults in the building, Golden State Teacher Fellowship cohorts will train and support the Bay Area educators who bring it to life.

This work is not yet funded anywhere. The Golden State Community Foundation is its catalyzing, lead funder — and the Bay Area is where it will be built first. aiEDU will pilot in community-based settings and partner classrooms, publish every student-facing material free under Creative Commons so no school waits on a budget line, and celebrate students publicly as they complete the journey [— including through the partnership's challenge with IREN]. National funders are already leaning in to scale what the Bay Area proves; their support will follow — and be announced after — Golden State's founding investment.

aiEDU is proposing a \$250,000, two-year partnership to scale AI readiness for Bay Area educators and students.

What the partnership delivers

2 cohorts

Golden State Teacher Fellowship — 30–40 Bay Area teachers each, publicly sponsored by the Foundation

2 tracks

foundational AI fluency for every student + the AI Builder curriculum, embedded in core subjects

4 events

community showcases where students present their work [with the Foundation and IREN]

1 pilot

published research on educator and student AI-readiness gains, shared nationally

Table of contents

- 1 Executive summary
- 2 What's new — and why now
- 3 Foundational AI fluency
- 4 The AI Builder curriculum
- 5 Platform, tracking & the completion challenge
- 6 Rollout, equity & measurement
- 7 The ask
- 8 Addendum — evidence, systems & team



What's new in this update

Everything in the concept note carries forward — Golden State Teacher Fellowship cohorts, the research pilot, storytelling through aiEDU Studios. Following our conversation with your team, this update makes the student experience concrete:

Students & educators, equally

Two tracks by design: foundational fluency and an AI Builder curriculum for students, paired with Fellowship cohorts for the educators who deliver them.

Fluency before building

Every pathway starts from zero background — what AI is, how it works, why it matters — before any building begins.

A sequenced rollout

Launching where young people already are — community-based settings — then charter partners, then district classrooms.

Recognition built in

A completion challenge with public celebration moments, designed so many students are celebrated — engagement captured by aiEDU.

Why now

The urgency in our original note has only sharpened. Less than half of teachers report receiving any formal guidance on AI, and only 31% of public schools have a written AI policy — yet 61% of U.S. teachers already use AI in their work, a third of them weekly. Meanwhile 78% of business leaders are actively hiring for AI-specific roles, and more than half of hiring managers now call basic AI literacy mandatory. Teachers, unions, and parents are pulling in the same direction — and that won't last forever. The opportunity is to **act while consensus is ahead of capacity**.

Sources: Center for Democracy & Technology (2025); NCES (2025); Education Week (2026); Gallup (2025); Microsoft & LinkedIn Work Trend Index (2025) — full citations in the original concept note.

302

educators have become Fellows, across 40 states

1.1M+

students reached by aiEDU curriculum in 2025

\$250,000

proposed two-year partnership



Foundational AI fluency: the eight-lesson sequence

A new eight-lesson foundational sequence — embeddable in any middle- or high-school course — gives every student the floor: what AI is, how it works, and why it's worth understanding. The arc, in four moves:

1 • Technology & connection

Before AI: where do we feel most connected to people — and where does technology support, or crowd out, that connection?

2 • Using AI to learn about AI

Students ask an AI for advice — should I take this class? — compare it with a person's counsel, and unpack what the model actually did to answer.

3 • It predicts. It doesn't think.

Hands-on exercises surface what a predictive model is good for, what it isn't — and why hallucinations happen.

4 • Power & pitfalls

Context and prompting, evaluating outputs, and judgment: when to turn to AI — and when not to.

Each lesson adapts by subject — ELA, social studies, science — and math connects natively: geometry's transformations are exactly what AI vision does, at scale.

The machinery already exists

This isn't a cold start. aiEDU's standards-aligned catalog already includes:

- Full grade 6–8 unit maps aligned to Illustrative Mathematics, with a 19-lesson pilot in New York City's District 14
- 21 Common-Core-mapped ELA modules (grades 8–12)
- A completed social-studies unit developed with a New York charter partner
- An Ohio CS-standards crosswalk, AP CSP-aligned materials, and science materials tagged to NGSS practices

And the floor is already stocked: aiEDU's AI Snapshots and Elementary Explorations — classroom-tested with hundreds of thousands of students, many deliberately pen-and-paper — deploy from day one while the new sequence is built.



What students will learn and build

Stackable, project-based modules embedded in English, science, math, and social studies ladder students up the composite skills of building — the first curriculum of its kind in the country. Because a teacher who **swaps** a unit rather than **adds** one actually says yes, every module rides on class time schools already have.

AI as research partner

Deep-research projects inside existing assignments — e.g., role-playing a figure from sports history, researched with AI, defended in class.

Custom chatbots

Students build and interrogate simple chatbots — hallucinations and limits become first-hand knowledge, not warnings.

Builder skills

Design thinking, defining problems, customer discovery — the durable skills behind every real build.

Real builds

Where tools allow: vibe-coded projects for real community needs, shipped to a public portfolio and open project library.

Why it reaches every student

The computer-science movement spent a decade learning a hard lesson: 60% of U.S. high schools offer foundational CS, but only 6.1% of eligible students enroll — electives reach only the students who opt in. aiEDU engineered for utilization from the start: because modules live inside required core classes, AI readiness rides on instructional time schools already have, is delivered by teachers of every subject, and reaches every student rather than a self-selected few.

Every unit moves through the same R&D pipeline before release:



Picture a sophomore at an Oakland high school. Over a semester she moves from her first structured experience with AI to building something real — a study tool her classmates actually use. She ships it to an open library where students across the country learn from her build, and finishes with an AI project portfolio she can put in front of colleges and employers. **That is the experience this partnership funds.**



Platform, tracking, and the completion challenge

The student & educator journey

Teachers and students sign in to aiEDU's curriculum portal — launching this fall — with individual accounts, the full curriculum catalog, and progress that persists over time. Everything publishes free under Creative Commons; on-ramps run from pen-and-paper to full building tools, and the curriculum is deliberately tool-agnostic — built for whatever a classroom already uses, so no school waits on procurement.

The completion challenge

Students who complete a defined set of modules and demonstrate their work product are recognized at Foundation celebration moments [— a subset receiving jerseys through IREN]. aiEDU captures completion and engagement end-to-end; fulfillment stays with the Foundation. Designed so many students are celebrated — never winner-take-all.

The mechanics are proven: aiEDU is mentoring a statewide student design challenge in Ohio with a public showcase, and our project-gallery platform — where every card is a participant's submitted build, sortable and public — runs today in our vibe-coding workshops.

Students come to this as experienced stakeholders

64%

of teens already use AI chatbots
(Pew, 2026)

54%

have used them for schoolwork
(Pew, 2026)

52%

say schools should be required to
teach AI use (Gallup/Walton, 2025)

~½

report no clear rules on AI at school
(Gallup/Walton, 2025)

And it's built for district trust: aiEDU is provider-agnostic — no AI vendor endorsed or embedded, no corporate branding inside instructional materials, celebration at Foundation moments, classroom materials neutral. That is the fastest path through adoption in San Francisco, Oakland, and beyond — and the safest one for the Foundation's brand.

Four community showcase events with the Foundation [and IREN] anchor the public calendar — Bay Area students presenting what they've built [e.g., a demo day at Chase Center].



Rollout, equity, and measurement

Start · community settings

Pilots begin where young people already are — Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCA-style partners — while classroom prototypes are co-developed with Bay Area Fellows.

Grow · charter partners

Active conversations with KIPP and Lighthouse; an ongoing professional learning community with Silicon Schools Fund gives the work a running start.

Scale · district classrooms

Two Golden State Teacher Fellowship cohorts (30–40 teachers each — e.g., SFUSD and Oakland USD — publicly sponsored by the Foundation) carry the curriculum into schools.

Mapped to the Foundation's roadmap

PHASE	WINDOW	MILESTONES
Build the foundation	Through Dec 2026	Curriculum roadmap · learning-objective maps · first classroom prototypes with Bay Area Fellows · pilot cohort confirmed
Launch & validate	Early 2027	Pilot cohort teaches the first units as the platform launches publicly · two Fellowship cohorts run · student work shared at community events
Measure, celebrate, scale	2027–2028	Staged open release under Creative Commons · research pilot reports gains · stories through aiEDU Studios

Equity is the design constraint, not a feature. The majority of students aiEDU serves attend majority free-and-reduced-price-lunch schools; every module ships with on-ramps for any level of technology access; and the hands-on educator model exists precisely because the schools furthest from resource — our first partner district had one computer-science teacher for 20,000 students — are the ones a platform alone will never reach.

85%

of Fellows expected to show improved proficiency on educator competencies

70%

of students expected to show improved AI-readiness proficiency

23,000+

aiEDU Studios subscribers carrying Fellow & student stories



The ask and recognition

Thank you for considering a **\$250,000, two-year partnership** with aiEDU. Your support is catalytic in the plainest sense: this program is not yet funded, you would be its founding funder, and everything it produces — curriculum, research, stories — carries the Bay Area's fingerprints as it scales nationally. We expect additional national philanthropy to follow within the first year of the partnership — announced after Golden State.

At the end of two years, what exists that didn't before

- The country's first open-source AI Builder curriculum — born in the Bay Area, scaling nationally with founding attribution intact
- Two Golden State Teacher Fellowship cohorts of trained, certified Bay Area educators
- Published research on educator and student AI-readiness gains (targets: 85% / 70%)
- A public portfolio of Bay Area student builds — and the showcase tradition that celebrates them
- A community of practice connecting community organizations, charter partners, and district classrooms

Recognition & partnership rhythm

All philanthropic supporters are recognized on aiEDU's website, annual impact report, and monthly newsletters · co-created thought leadership through aiEDU Studios (23,000+ subscribers) · a joint public announcement, timed with your team · release previews and quarterly updates throughout the grant.

We'd be proud to build this with you.

Alex Kotran · Co-Founder & CEO · alex@aiedu.org



Approach, evidence & track record

The capability, evidence base, and infrastructure behind every program in this proposal — how we build, how we know it works, and how the story gets told.

49,000+ teachers

reached across 42 states, impacting 2M+ students nationally

300%+ in one year

student reach grew more than 300% in a single year — from ~280,000 (2024) to over 1.1 million (2025)

242 events in 2025

including 98 invited keynotes and 188 professional-learning seminars reaching 11,620 participants

4.5 / 5 satisfaction

across 1,000+ educator respondents

\$1.15M earned revenue

in 2025 — school districts pay for this work, a market test most grant-funded programs never face

Backed nationally

by Salesforce, Ballmer Group, Google.org, the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, among others

HOW WE TEACH: LEARNING THROUGH BUILDING

Every aiEDU module ends in something a student made. The skill ladder runs from a student's first structured encounter with AI, to connecting tools, to vibe-coding real projects, to multi-tool builds using APIs and agents. Judgment is threaded throughout: students interrogate outputs, verify evidence, and identify uncertainty and bias before they ever ship a build. Portfolios and public presentation are the through-line — every student finishes with work they can defend in front of their community, their college applications, and future employers. And every unit ships classroom-ready, with lesson plans, slides, activities, rubrics, assessments, and teacher guides.



Standards-aligned by design — because equity demands it

The computer science education movement offers a cautionary lesson: 60% of U.S. high schools now offer foundational computer science, yet **only 6.1% of eligible students enroll** (Code.org, 2025). Electives reach the students with room in their schedules and the confidence to opt in — and access tracks school resources. **aiEDU builds instead for the classes every student already takes**, embedding AI Readiness in Math, Science, ELA, and Social Studies, as well as CS. That machinery already exists:

- Full grade 6–8 unit maps aligned to Illustrative Mathematics, with a 19-lesson pilot in New York City’s District 14
- 21 CCSS-mapped ELA modules (grades 8–12) co-built with Quill.org
- A completed social-studies unit developed with a New York charter partner
- An Ohio CS-standards crosswalk and AP CSP-aligned materials, with science materials tagged to NGSS practices

Everything student-facing releases under Creative Commons — free to every school, not only those that can pay. The districts that most need this work are the least able to pay for it; that is precisely the case for philanthropy.

THE RESEARCH SPINE

AI READINESS FRAMEWORK V2

Cited by 87 organizations and 13 state education agencies, with ~2,000 educator downloads since September 2025 — defines the student and educator competencies every aiEDU program measures against.

ETS

Co-developing AI Readiness assessments as a joint “risk capital” investment, beginning with 6th-grade math; the first assessments pilot in fall 2026.

BURNING GLASS INSTITUTE

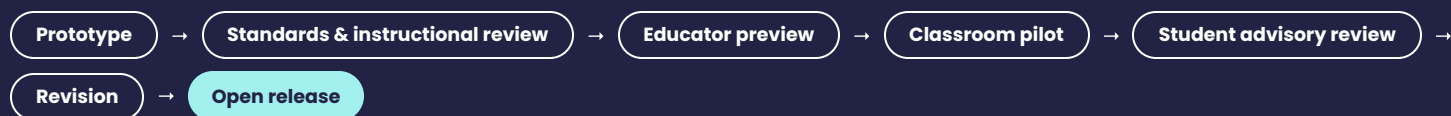
A joint analysis of 20–30 million job postings against 1,000+ skills produced the finding that shapes our curriculum: durable human skills — communication, collaboration, judgment — are what differentiate workers who run with AI.

\$IM AIEDU × BGI × SALESFORCE

Mapping industry skill taxonomies to U.S. learning standards, giving the next generation of the Framework grade-level granularity.



The R&D pipeline



This is the same pipeline running today in the District 14 math pilot, the ETS assessment co-design, and our middle-school Learning Journeys pilots. Student voice is a design input from day one: advisory structures test and critique prototypes before release, and pilot feedback drives each revision cycle.

ONE SYSTEM

Curriculum × teacher training × community engagement

A curriculum reaches students when the teachers who deliver it are trained, supported, and part of a community — and when families see and celebrate what students make. aiEDU runs all three as one system:

Teacher training

The Trailblazers Fellowship (300+ Fellows across 40 states; cohorts can carry a funder's name) · Spark the Future train-the-trainer (77 certified trainers; Idaho requested statewide deployment) · district-embedded professional learning at system scale, including PGCPs (150,000 students; ~3,000 teachers over three years), New York City (the Urban Assembly network and NYCPS contracts), and a statewide advisory engagement with Ohio's Department of Education & Workforce.

Community engagement

Community Catalyst subgrants to rural and Indigenous AI-readiness projects (139 applications from 45 states in 2026 — demand outpacing funding 20×) · community showcases and demo days where students present their work publicly.

Students as co-designers

Advisory structures, prototype testing, and feedback loops throughout every pilot — student voice as a design input from day one.



Built for systems change

aiEDU works at the level where change sticks — states, districts, and county offices — **building capacity inside the system, not around it.**

- 30+ policy briefings and testimonies across 7 states in 2025. Ohio House Bill 96 — which requires every Ohio district to adopt an AI policy by July 1, 2026 — followed sustained aiEDU briefings.
- 13 state education agencies cite the AI Readiness Framework; Ohio's statewide advisory contract and Idaho's statewide train-the-trainer request show the adoption pattern.
- District-wide adoption is the norm for our work — PGCPs at 150,000 students, and a district-wide Pittsburgh rollout with Remake Learning beginning August 2026.
- Open licensing makes everything public infrastructure: what's built for one region is built for the country, with founding attribution intact.

THE NATIONAL AMPLIFICATION NETWORK

The stories this partnership produces will not sit in a report — aiEDU has built the channels to carry them nationally:

AIEDU STUDIOS	138 videos in year one, 23,000+ subscribers, 6.5M+ impressions, and a Trailblazer spotlight series. <i>Raising Kids in the Age of AI</i> , created with Google, was featured on CBS Evening News.
EARNED MEDIA	The Atlantic, Politico, Education Next, and GovTech in 2025, with op-eds in The 74 and The Detroit News — plus a Seattle Times feature on Catalyst grants in Washington's rural and Indigenous communities.
OWNED AUDIENCES	The Notes on AI Readiness Substack (~10,000 subscribers) and a monthly educator newsletter that nearly doubled in 2025 to 9,000+ subscribers.
NATIONAL AI LITERACY DAY	Co-organized with Common Sense Media, The Tech Interactive, and the EDSAFE AI Alliance: 80+ events nationwide in 2026, with aiEDU a lead organizing partner for 2027.
THE SECTOR'S BIGGEST STAGES	Six activations and speaking slots at the ASU+GSV Summit (whose president serves on aiEDU's board) and vibe-coding workshops at SXSW EDU 2026.



Building the AI-powered nonprofit of the future

aiEDU cannot credibly advance AI Readiness for students without modeling it ourselves. So we run our own playbook internally — the same transformation we ask of schools, applied to our own organization — and we publish what we learn.

AN INTERNAL AI READINESS FRAMEWORK — FOR OUR OWN STAFF

AI Readiness at aiEDU means using AI to amplify your human advantage — so the work only you can do gets better, and our mission goes further. Every role at aiEDU maps to competencies across three levels, with role-specific skill maps for every function, from programs and learning to development, people, and finance:

Level 1 · Know & Use — hiring bar; all staff by end of 2026



Level 2 · Think & Build — all staff by end of 2027



Level 3 · Lead & Multiply

HOW WE BUILD THE MUSCLE

AI Vibers — internal cohorts with protected time for staff to build working AI solutions, with a second cohort (fall 2026) focused on agentic workflows — alongside all-hands trainings, monthly lunch-and-learns, and standing office hours. The infrastructure underneath, led by Kate Anthony (VP, Finance & Operations): an org-wide AI use policy, an AI intranet, Claude in Slack, and an approval workflow for external-facing tools — with hard guardrails, including human review on consequential decisions and verification and disclosure norms for anything AI touches.

THE PROOF — AND THE PUBLIC RECORD

A predominantly non-technical team — educators and operators, not engineers — has shipped internal automations across Slack, Notion, Airtable, and Google Workspace; an interactive self-assessment districts use against the AI Readiness Framework; and the platform behind our vibe coding workshops. We share the journey publicly on our CEO's Substack: [We're an AI nonprofit that held off on adopting AI — that's changing](#) · [We need to talk about teams](#) · [Vibe coding is here](#).

Every framework we bring to schools is tested on ourselves first. The organization asking educators to transform is **doing the transformation — in public.**



Meet the aiEDU team



Alex Kotran
FOUNDER & CEO

Founded aiEDU in 2019 and leads its strategy, partnerships, and national voice — a TEDx speaker and author of the *Notes on AI Readiness* Substack who has briefed Congress on AI readiness. Prior to founding aiEDU, Alex co-developed the world's first AI literacy education program for judges with the National Judicial College. Son of a 35-year math teacher.



Emma Doggett Neergaard
CHIEF PROGRAMS OFFICER

Leads all of aiEDU's programs — curriculum and educator services as one portfolio. Previously Chief Learning Officer at CourseMojo and Chief Program Officer at Achievement Network; began her career in the classroom. MBA, Harvard Business School.



Christian Pinedo
VP, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS & ADVOCACY

Leads aiEDU's external affairs and advocacy — the policy briefings, congressional engagement, and state and coalition relationships behind aiEDU's field leadership, including 30+ briefings and testimonies across 7 states in 2025.



Kate Anthony
VP, FINANCE & OPERATIONS

Runs aiEDU's finance and operations — and leads the internal AI transformation: the staff AI Readiness Framework, aiEDU's AI infrastructure and use policy, and the review systems that keep AI-powered work responsible (see "Practicing what we teach").



Lange Luntao
CHIEF OF STAFF

Joins aiEDU as Chief of Staff. Previously at EdTrust-West; founding Executive Director of the Reinvent Stockton Foundation; Stockton Unified school board president (2019); a former high school teacher from a third-generation Stockton educator family. Harvard B.A.; Stanford M.A.; Fulbright Fellow.



Khushali Narechania
DIRECTOR, LEARNING

Leads aiEDU's student curriculum and educator professional-learning strategy. More than a decade in teacher development, including national content methods at Relay Graduate School of Education; began as a high school math teacher.



Drew St Lawrence
SENIOR LEAD, CURRICULUM

Leads aiEDU's student-facing curriculum. A nine-year New York City teacher and instructional coach and a Fulbright Fellow in Singapore, with learning design spanning radio math curricula in West Africa and Asia, MIND Education, and reDesign.



Mari Strand Cary
SENIOR LEAD, RESEARCH & EVALUATION

Leads aiEDU's impact measurement strategy, building the evidence systems that show what's working — and what needs to change. Her team anchors the outcomes reporting this partnership commits to.

This is the machine the Foundation's investment plugs into: a national curriculum R&D shop with a teacher network, a research spine, a policy footprint, and a megaphone. The Bay Area is where it goes to work first.