

AI Literacy Curricula in US K–12 Schools

A curated directory and research-based evaluation rubric

2026 | AI in Education Studio

Why AI Literacy Matters Now

Artificial intelligence literacy has rapidly emerged as a critical component of K–12 education. A 2025 White House executive order established AI literacy as national policy, and as of early 2026, 28 states have published AI guidance for K–12 education.

Educators and district leaders need a clear picture of what high-quality AI curricula look like and how to evaluate them. This deck provides both: a curated directory of the most actively used programs and a research-based rubric for systematic comparison.

28

States with K–12
AI Guidance

2M+

Classrooms Using
Code.org AI

670K+

Students Reached
by MIT Day of AI

Part 1: Curricula Directory

Top AI literacy programs actively used in US K–12 schools (1 of 2)

MIT RAISE Day of AI

K–12

Free, open-source. 670K+ students in 170+ countries.

Code.org AI Curriculum

K–12

Free. Integrated into 2M+ classrooms nationwide.

aiEDU + Quill.org

8–12

Free. 21-module full-year curriculum for 2025–2026.

ISTE + ASCD Resources

K–12

Standards adopted in all 50 states. PD pathways included.

AI4K12 Initiative (AAAI + CSTA)

K–12

Free. Foundational Five Big Ideas framework.

Part 1: Curricula Directory

Top AI literacy programs actively used in US K–12 schools (2 of 2)

CSTA AI Learning Priorities

K–12

Free. Being embedded into 2026 CSTA Standards.

ReadyAI Curriculum

K–12

Subscription. Centered on Five Big Ideas and social good.

Google AI in K–12 Education

K–12

Free. Teachable Machine and PD pathways for educators.

Learning.com Next Gen AI Literacy

K–8

Subscription. 2M+ students. Multi-year initiative.

LEGO Education CS & AI

K–8

Kit purchase. 30 lessons per grade band. Launching Apr 2026.

Spotlight: Free & High-Reach Programs

MIT RAISE Day of AI

Grades: K–12 | Cost: Free

Full school day of hands-on AI activities covering machine learning, NLP, computer vision, and generative AI.

670,000+ students across 170+ countries since 2022. Activities address how AI works, benefits and risks, and ethical considerations.

aiEDU + Quill.org

Grades: 8–12 | Cost: Free

Full-year curriculum with 21 modules designed for weekly use during the 2025–2026 school year.

Integrates AI literacy into existing literacy and STEM instruction. Covers foundational concepts, ethical reasoning, and societal impacts.

How do we evaluate these curricula?

A research-based rubric grounded in Long & Magerko (2020), the AI4K12 Five Big Ideas, and the SRI CIGALE expert review.

Part 2: Evaluation Rubric Overview

Seven research-grounded criteria, each scored on a 4-point scale

1	Standards Alignment & Learning Objectives
2	Pedagogical Quality & Instructional Design
3	AI Ethics & Responsible Use
4	Hands-On & Experiential Learning
5	Equity, Access & Inclusivity
6	Teacher Support & Professional Development
7	Currency & Adaptability
Exemplary (4) Proficient (3) Developing (2) Insufficient (1)	

Rubric Criteria 1–3

1. Standards Alignment

Exemplary: Aligned to AI4K12 Five Big Ideas, CSTA, ISTE. Clear, measurable objectives at each grade band.

Insufficient: No alignment to recognized standards. Learning objectives missing or unmeasurable.

2. Pedagogical Quality

Exemplary: Research-based strategies (inquiry, project-based). Scaffolded progression. Formative and summative assessments.

Insufficient: Passive instruction only. No scaffolding, progression, or assessments included.

3. AI Ethics & Responsible Use

Exemplary: Ethics integrated throughout: bias, fairness, privacy, transparency. Real-world case studies included.

Insufficient: Ethics absent or mentioned only in passing. No structured ethical reasoning.

Rubric Criteria 4–7

4. Hands-On & Experiential Learning

Exemplary: Extensive activities where students train or build AI systems. Uses Teachable Machine, Scratch-based AI, physical computing.

Insufficient: No hands-on activities. Entirely lecture or reading-based.

5. Equity, Access & Inclusivity

Exemplary: Designed for diverse learners including ELL and students with disabilities. Low/no cost. Culturally responsive.

Insufficient: Not designed with accessibility in mind. High cost barrier. Content lacks diversity.

6. Teacher Support & PD

Exemplary: Comprehensive guides with background knowledge. Embedded PD. Active community. No CS expertise required.

Insufficient: No teacher support materials or PD. Assumes deep technical expertise.

7. Currency & Adaptability

Exemplary: Reflects current AI landscape including generative AI, LLMs, deepfakes. Modular design. Regular updates.

Insufficient: Content outdated. No updates since publication. Cannot be adapted.

Scoring & Interpretation Guide

Use these prompts to evaluate and compare AI literacy curricula:

22–28

High Quality

Implementation-ready. Suitable for direct adoption with minimal modification.

15–21

Solid Foundation

Good quality with identifiable areas for improvement. Consider supplementing.

8–14

Needs Development

Significant gaps present. Requires substantial supplementation before adoption.

Below 8

Not Recommended

Insufficient for classroom use. Fundamental redesign needed.

Next Steps for Your District

Use these prompts to move from evaluation to action:

Select 2–3 curricula from this directory and score them using the rubric

Convene a cross-functional review team (teachers, administrators, IT)

Pilot the highest-scoring curriculum in a small cohort before district-wide adoption

Establish professional development plans aligned to your chosen program

Schedule follow-up evaluations to assess implementation and student outcomes

“AI literacy is layered and interconnected. It requires balancing technical and nontechnical components in a developmentally appropriate learning progression.”

— SRI Education, CIGALE Expert Review Report (2025)

Key Sources & References

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Thank You

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