

U.S. State AI Literacy Readiness

Policy brief for state-level AI education guidance, teacher capacity, and evidence infrastructure

AAB-POLICY-BRIEF-2026-002

Intended audience: State education leaders, district AI task forces, policy staff, philanthropy, and civic education partners

Foreword

This document has been prepared by the AI Assessment Board (AAB) to support public-interest AI literacy standards, evidence review, and policy formation. AAB's role is to organize evidence, clarify implementation conditions, and support responsible decision-making across education, workforce, and community settings.

The brief translates AAB's policy-monitor evidence into a readiness agenda for U.S. state and district AI literacy implementation.

Policy Question

How can states move from rapid AI guidance to durable AI literacy infrastructure that supports educators, protects learners, and produces usable evidence of implementation quality?

Current Signal

The live AAB state policy monitor contains 50 state records, and the state community-signal monitor contains 50 records.

Federal policy activity now places AI literacy, educator training, K-12 resources, and youth AI pathways within the national education agenda.

State readiness depends on whether guidance is connected to teacher preparation, procurement guardrails, student learning outcomes, and evidence review.

Policy Moves

Publish an AI literacy framework that connects grade bands, disciplines, responsible use, and family/community communication.

Fund educator professional learning before requiring student-facing outcomes.

Provide district templates for privacy, disclosure, accessibility, procurement, and acceptable use.

Launch low-stakes pilot networks before attaching AI literacy to accountability systems.

Require evidence reporting that captures implementation conditions, not only participation counts.

Readiness Checklist

AAB Evidence Base

External Source References

Publication Boundary

AAB identifies evidence patterns and policy implications; inclusion of a record does not by itself constitute product endorsement, institutional accreditation, or certification approval.

Where records are marked for review in the AAB registry, they should be read as evidence candidates until the applicable AAB review process confirms publication status and source sufficiency.

Policy and legal references should be rechecked before final adoption because statutory duties, agency guidance, and state implementation requirements continue to evolve.

Document type	Prepared by	Publication status	Evidence refresh
Policy Brief	AI Assessment Board (AAB)	Public draft for external review	2026-05-16

Readiness area	Minimum state action	Evidence artifact
Standards	Map AI literacy to grade bands and subject contexts	Framework, crosswalk, or guidance addendum
Educator capacity	Provide PD with practice, ethics, and assessment design	PD syllabus, attendance, and implementation evidence
Guardrails	Publish district-ready policy templates	Privacy, disclosure, procurement, and accessibility template
Assessment	Pilot low-stakes performance evidence	Rubric, student artifact, and review notes
Equity	Review access, disability, language, and rural constraints	Equity review memo and mitigation plan

AAB collection	Current records	Most recent registry update	Publication use	Representative public IDs
Case Registry	140	Sep. 28, 2024	Implementation and study evidence	AAB-CASE-2025-RV-027, AAB-CASE-2025-RV-040, AAB-CASE-2025-RV-054, AAB-CASE-2025-RV-022
Pilot Registry	6	2026-05-15	Structured pilot governance and field documentation	AAB-PILOT-2026-AI_Explorer_Program-001, AAB-PILOT-2025-LL-002, AAB-PILOT-2025-LL-003, AAB-PILOT-2025-LL-004
Framework Registry	62	2026-05-12	Standards, competency, and governance references	AAB-FRAMEWORK-013-AI4K12-FIVE-BIG-IDEAS-IN-AI, AAB-FRAMEWORK-014-AI4K12-GRADE-BAND-PROGRESSION-CHARTS, AAB-FRAMEWORK-055-AWS-AI-ML-SCHOLARS, AAB-FRAMEWORK-054-AWS-AI-READY-AWS-AI-TRAINING

AAB collection	Current records	Most recent registry update	Publication use	Representative public IDs
Resource Catalog	90	2026-05-12	Instructional and professional learning supply	AAB-RESOURCE-029-AI-PEDAGOGY-PROJECT, AAB-RESOURCE-080-AI-SINGAPORE-AI-FOR-EVERYONE, AAB-RESOURCE-025-AI-FOR-EDUCATION-FREE-RESOURCES, AAB-RESOURCE-007-AI4K12-RESOURCE-DIRECTORY
Initiative Directory	94	2026-05-12	System and sector activity signals	AAB-INITIATIVE-045-AI-SINGAPORE-AI-FOR-EVERYONE, AAB-INITIATIVE-034-AI-FOR-EDUCATION, AAB-INITIATIVE-014-AI4K12-INITIATIVE, AAB-INITIATIVE-012-AI4T-ARTIFICIAL-INTELLIGENCE-FOR-AND-BY-TEACHERS
Assessment and Credentialing	74	2026-05-12	Assessment, credential, and recognition models	AAB-ASSESSMENT-072-AAB-REVIEW-RECOGNITION-SYSTEM-INTERNAL-REFERENCE, AAB-ASSESSMENT-064-ABAIM-CERTIFICATION-IN-ARTIFICIAL-INTELLIGENCE-IN-MEDICINE, AAB-ASSESSMENT-062-ARTIBA-ARTIFICIAL-INTELLIGENCE-BOARD-OF-AMERICA-AI-CERTIFICATIONS, AAB-ASSESSMENT-043-AWS-CERTIFIED-AI-PRACTITIONER
Policy Monitor	195	2026-05-14	Country and regional policy signals	AAB-POLICY-ALGERIA, AAB-POLICY-AUSTRALIA, AAB-POLICY-CANADA, AAB-POLICY-FINLAND
U.S. State Policy Monitor	50	2026-05-14	State-level policy signals	AAB-USPOL-AL, AAB-USPOL-AK, AAB-USPOL-AZ, AAB-USPOL-AR
Community Signals	260	2026-05-15	Teacher, public, institutional, and state signals	AAB-COMMUNITY-SIGNAL-001-ACADEMIC-INTEGRITY-AND-CHEATING, AAB-COMMUNITY-SIGNAL-AFGHANISTAN, AAB-COMMUNITY-SIGNAL-004-AGE-APPROPRIATENESS, AAB-COMMUNITY-SIGNAL-ALBANIA

Reference	Use in this document	URL
UNESCO AI Competency Framework for Students	Student AI literacy progression across human-centered mindset, ethics, AI techniques and applications, and AI system design.	https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/ai-competency-framework-students

Reference	Use in this document	URL
UNESCO AI Competency Framework for Teachers	Teacher capacity reference for responsible classroom integration and professional learning design.	https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/ai-competency-framework-teachers
EU AI Act, Article 4	Institutional AI literacy obligation for providers and deployers of AI systems.	https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj/eng
White House Executive Order 14277	U.S. federal policy signal on AI literacy, educator training, K-12 resources, and youth AI pathways.	https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/advancing-artificial-intelligence-education-for-american-youth/
U.S. Department of Education AI guidance	Federal education guidance on allowable uses for AI literacy, educator professional development, and AI-supported learning.	https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-issues-guidance-artificial-intelligence-use-schools-proposes-additional-supplemental-priority

Reference	Use in this document	URL
AI4K12 Guidelines	K-12 conceptual reference organized around five big ideas and grade-band progression.	https://ai4k12.org/
OECD TALIS 2024 Results	Teacher AI use and professional learning signal across participating education systems.	https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/results-from-talis-2024_90df6235-en.html