



The K-12 District Buyer's Guide to Digital & AI Readiness



A clear, confident path to preparing students
for an AI-influenced world

Why Digital & AI Readiness Matters Now

Digital & AI readiness is no longer optional—it's foundational to how districts teach, assess, and protect students.

AI is arriving in classrooms faster than policy, guidance, or curriculum. New AI tools are launching every week—most built for teachers. However, students are already using AI for research, writing, problem-solving, and decision-making. District leaders are now facing urgent questions:

- How do we ensure students use AI responsibly?
- How do we protect academic integrity?
- How do we teach critical thinking in a world of instant answers?
- How do we prepare students for a workforce shaped by Industry 4.0?

Digital readiness is no longer about devices. It's about judgment. Ethics. Critical thinking. Safety.

And today, that includes digital and AI literacy.



Not All Providers are Prepared for the Shift Ahead

AI is the tool. AI literacy is the *skill*.

Most solutions entering the market focus on:

- AI productivity tools for teachers
- AI content generators
- AI classroom management enhancements

Very few curriculum providers are focused on the skills students need to:

- Question AI outputs
- Identify bias and hallucinations
- Protect privacy
- Use AI ethically
- Verify information
- Maintain academic integrity



Teaching students how to use a specific AI tool is short-term. Teaching students how to think in an AI world is future-proof. That is AI literacy and where most programs fall short today.

Why Fragmented Approaches Are No Longer Enough

Disconnected tools and one-off programs can't keep up with growing expectations.

Many districts still rely on a collection of point solutions—keyboarding here, online safety there, and informal AI guidance when time allows.

While well-intentioned, fragmented approaches create real challenges:

- Inconsistent instruction across schools and grade levels
- Uneven student preparedness that surfaces too late
- Limited visibility for district leadership
- Manual documentation that doesn't scale
- Increased risk during audits, assessments, or board review

As digital literacy becomes core to learning itself, districts need **coherence—not more tools**.

Where Districts Often Get Stuck

- Strong intentions, but inconsistent execution
- Tools adopted faster than guidance
- Safety and AI addressed reactively
- Lack of a comprehensive AI policy or guidelines
- Limited visibility until problems arise

Why Districts Need a Unified Solution—and a Dedicated Partner

Digital & AI readiness is a system-wide responsibility that can't live with one program or one department.

Digital & AI literacy now spans curriculum, technology, compliance, assessment, and equity. Without a unified approach, districts are forced to manage complexity internally—often with limited time and staff capacity.

A dedicated digital & AI literacy partner helps districts:

- Align instruction across classrooms and schools
- Reduce risk through consistency and documentation
- Support educators without increasing workload
- Provide leadership with confidence and visibility

This isn't a short-term purchase. It's a **strategic partnership**.



What District Leaders Should Require from Any Provider

The right solution simplifies decision-making and reduces risk—not adds to it.

When evaluating digital & AI literacy providers, district leaders should look beyond features and ask whether a solution delivers:

Digital & AI literacy Requirements	Current Solution
Standards-aligned, K–12 instruction designed for real classrooms	
Age-appropriate skill progression that builds year over year	
Coverage across critical areas, including AI literacy, online safety, and future-ready skills	
Built-in assessment and reporting for leadership visibility	
District-wide consistency without relying on individual interpretation	
Proven scale and longevity in K–12	
Teaches critical thinking, verification, and ethical reasoning skills, not how to use tools	
Support teachers without adding lift, delivers turnkey, classroom-ready lessons—not another initiative.	
Designed specifically for K–12 realities, not retrofitted corporate training. Not experimental modules.	



A Simple Starting Point

Before evaluating solutions, many districts begin by assessing where they stand today — across AI readiness, online safety, and future-ready skills.

That clarity helps teams prioritize investments, align stakeholders, and avoid reactive decisions later.

Download our AI, Career-Ready, and CIPA Compliance Checklists to get started:

- [AI Readiness Checklist](#)
- [CIPA Compliance Checklist](#)
- [Career-Ready Checklist](#)

If a solution can’t demonstrate consistency, measurement, and sustainability, it will be difficult to defend long-term.



Why Learning.com Is the Right Partner

Digital & AI readiness requires more than individual programs—it requires a clear, connected approach.

Many solutions address **one piece of digital & AI** readiness well. Few are designed to deliver **consistency, visibility, and defensibility** across all three — at scale.

Learning.com helps districts move from fragmented digital initiatives to **coherent, measurable digital and career readiness** by focusing on the skills students need to learn, stay safe, and prepare for what comes next. For more than 25 years, Learning.com has partnered with districts to deliver consistent, age-appropriate digital & AI literacy at scale—designed specifically for K–12 realities.

Independent Recognition that Reduces District Risk

Choosing a digital & AI readiness partner is a long-term decision with instructional, compliance, and reputational implications. These awards reflect what districts value most: solutions that work at scale, stand the test of time, and support both educators and leadership.



Digital Citizenship
Solution



Digital Literacy
Best in Show



Overall e-Learning
Company of the Year



Trusted by ISTE
for Digital Learning

A Digital Readiness Framework Built Around Three Essential Areas

Career connections, online safety, and AI literacy are no longer separate conversations—they are interdependent expectations.

Learning.com’s approach brings these priorities together into one unified framework:



Career Connections

Students build transferable digital and problem-solving skills early—skills that support academic success, future coursework, and long-term workforce readiness. Career readiness begins with strong K–8 foundations, not last-minute interventions.



Being Safe and Smart Online

Students learn to navigate digital spaces responsibly through consistent online safety and digital citizenship instruction. Districts gain defensibility through instruction that supports compliance, documentation, and preparation for modern digital risks.



AI Literacy

Students learn how AI works, where it falls short, and how to use it responsibly. Districts gain a clear, instructional approach to AI readiness that protects learning, assessment integrity, and public trust.

Together, these areas form a **comprehensive view of digital readiness**—not isolated programs competing for time and attention.



What to look for in a digital readiness solution for AI, Career, and Online Safety:

Requirement Area	What to Look For	Why It Matters
Career & Future-Ready Skills	• K–12 skill progression (not one-off lessons) • Transferable skills tied to real-world application • Equity and consistency across schools	Career readiness gaps surface too late when foundations aren’t built early or consistently
Online Safety & CIPA Readiness	• Instructional coverage beyond policy review • Documentation and reporting for audits • Alignment to modern digital & AI-driven risks	Compliance without defensibility leaves districts exposed during audits, board review, or incidents
AI Literacy	• Age-appropriate AI instruction (not tool training) • Emphasis on ethics, bias, and critical thinking • Clear expectations for student use	AI without guidance creates inconsistency, assessment risk, and public trust concerns
Instructional Consistency	• Ready-to-use lessons across grade levels • Not dependent on individual teachers • Minimal lift for educators	Inconsistent implementation undermines outcomes and makes programs impossible to scale
Leadership Visibility	• Built-in assessment and reporting • District-level dashboards • Clear evidence of coverage	Leaders need visibility to make informed decisions and confidently answer stakeholders
Sustainability & Scale	• Designed specifically for K–12 • Proven longevity and adoption • Support as standards and risks evolve	Short-term tools often fail when expectations, leadership, or technology changes

AI Literacy: Preparing Students for an AI-Influenced World

AI literacy isn’t about tools—it’s about understanding, judgment, and responsibility.

Learning.com’s AI Literacy solution helps districts introduce AI concepts safely and instructionally, without disrupting classrooms or compromising assessment integrity.

Districts benefit from:

- Age-appropriate instruction that explains what AI is—and what it isn’t
- Emphasis on critical thinking, ethics, and responsible use
- Consistent expectations across classrooms and schools
- Support for educators navigating AI-related questions

AI literacy becomes a foundation for learning—not a source of uncertainty.



Learning.com K–8 AI Literacy Curriculum Progression Matrix by Grade Band

Grade Band	Understanding AI	Using AI	Critical Thinking with AI	Ethics & Impact
K–2	Identify everyday AI in their world; understand AI follows rules and learns from examples; recognize tasks AI can and cannot do.	Break big problems into smaller steps; try simple AI-assisted tasks; adjust inputs to change outputs.	Decide whether using AI is a good idea; notice when AI outputs are unfair or illogical. Understand what is public and private information.	Name ways AI can help or cause harm; notice when AI makes unfair or unequal choices.
3–5	Sort AI vs. non-AI examples; describe purpose and features; explain how data and algorithms work together.	Sequence steps to solve problems with AI; work with AI and explain human vs AI contributions; adjust prompts/ settings.	List reasons for and against AI use; analyze differences in AI outputs when prompts change; evaluate basic accuracy.	Describe benefits/ drawbacks of AI for people and society; consider impacts on environment/ economy / and government; give credit when using others’ work.
6–8	Classify AI by type/function; explain datasets, algorithms, and outputs; describe how data quality, diversity, and oversight shape results.	Write step-by-step prompts; coordinate human/AI roles in projects; test multiple prompting strategies; manage privacy settings.	Evaluate outputs for accuracy, bias, appropriateness; explain how dataset/input changes affect results; analyze impacts of limited data.	Weigh trade-offs for individuals, communities, cultures, environment, and economy; analyze fairness/ inclusivity issues; understand training data and consent.

Online Safety & Digital Citizenship: Beyond Compliance

Compliance is the minimum. Consistency and defensibility are the goal.



Learning.com supports districts with online safety and digital citizenship instruction that is consistent, documented, and aligned to modern risks.

Districts gain:

- Instruction that supports CIPA requirements and defensibility
- Consistent coverage across grade levels
- Documentation and reporting for audits and leadership review
- Preparation for emerging risks, including misinformation and AI-driven threats

Online safety becomes proactive, instructional, and defensible.

Students learn to decipher between fact and fiction, with grade-appropriate content.



Which statements below are a fact? Which statements are an opinion?

▶ Play



	Fact ▶ Play	Opinion ▶ Play
Broccoli is the best tasting vegetable	☐	☐
A Barber is someone whose job is to cut hair	☐	☐
People who enjoy skateboarding can't enjoy rollerblading	☐	☐
The school bus takes you to and from school	☐	☐

Career Exploration & Future-Ready Skills: Building Foundations Early

Career readiness doesn't start in high school—it starts with K–8 foundations.

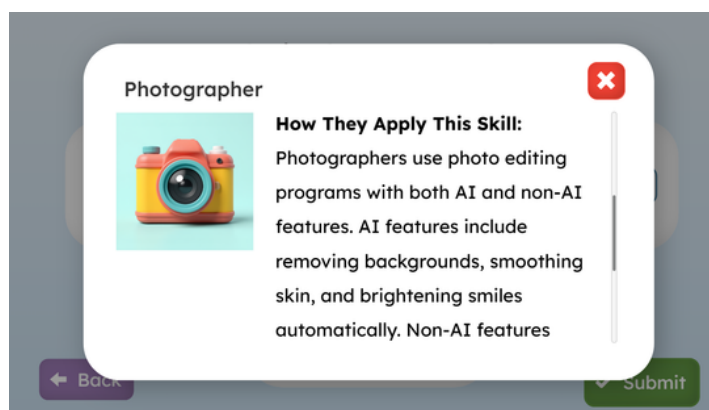
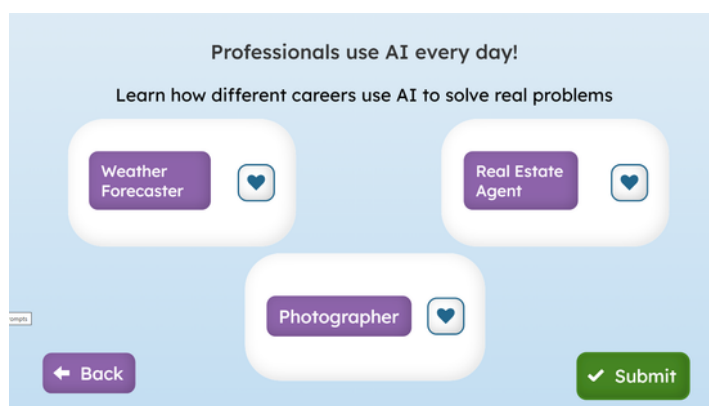
Learning.com helps districts build transferable, future-ready skills early, supporting long-term academic and workforce outcomes.

Districts benefit from:

- Intentional skill progression across grades
- Emphasis on real-world, transferable skills
- Equitable access across schools and student populations
- Visibility into student readiness and growth

Students are better prepared for what comes next—academically and beyond.

Help young students explore different careers and make connections early to how technology supports that work.



Funding, Outcomes, and Return on Investment

Digital readiness is achievable within existing funding structures—and delivers measurable value.

Districts commonly support Learning.com through:

- General funds
- Technology budgets
- Federal and state programs

The return includes:

- Demonstrated student skill growth
- Reduced compliance and reputational risk
- Time savings for educators
- Clear reporting for leadership and stakeholders

Learning.com's built-in assessments and reports make it easier to justify investment and track impact.



"Simply being able to use technology is no longer enough. We strive to develop our students' digital skills to analyze, learn, communicate, and create with technology in ways that prepare them to work, live, and contribute to their communities. Learning.com helps us do that."

Gavin Guynes

*Director Technology Integration & Innovation Team
Madison County Schools, MS*

"My Learning.com "aha" moment was realizing the impact of laying a strong foundation. A middle school teacher approached me with an idea to try something different for a project, we decided students would create Google Slides. The results were eye-opening: the 6th graders outperformed the 8th graders. That's when it hit me, the 6th graders had been part of the 1st-grade class when we first implemented Learning.com. It showed me that when we're intentional, with the right curriculum and programs, we can truly set students up for success, and Learning.com played a big role in that."

Monique Miles

*Education Technology Specialist, Elementary
Goose Creek Consolidated ISD, TX*

As most districts do, we carefully vetted several different digital literacy curricula and Learning.com's EasyTech really stood out as a robust and comprehensive solution. What we discovered was there wasn't a whole lot out there of it's kind, which is what we loved about it.

Brenda Gerson

*Instructional Technology Specialist
Chandler Unified School District
Chandler Unified School District, AZ*



Next Step: From Evaluation to Action

The most effective next step is understanding where your district stands today.

Let's start the conversation and review your current approach, identify gaps, and explore practical next steps to align Learning.com to your district's goals.

Whether you're just getting started or refining an existing strategy, Learning.com helps districts move every student's digital skills forward with confidence.