Digital Promise AI Literacy Framework: Components and Application

Training purpose: read, interpret, and apply the Digital Promise AI Literacy Framework

Scope: origins, AI literacy definition, expanded components, curriculum and PD application

Outcomes: explain the framework, map a lesson, evaluate a tool, plan next steps

Agenda: why now → architecture → component deep dives → application → roadmap → workshop

Why now: AI use is rising fast while educator training and guidance lag (RAND, Instructure, NGCP, IBM)



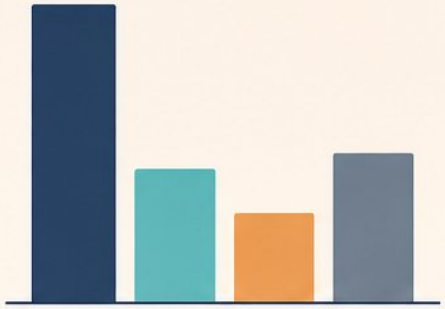
Background: Why AI Literacy Now

- Two-thirds of educators use AI several times a week (NGCP, 2026)
- 37% report no AI professional development; only 11% have 8+ hours
- 45% of K–12 educators lack formal AI training; confidence averages 2.53/5 (Instructure, 2026)
- Only ~45% of principals report district AI policies; 80%+ of students say teachers haven't taught AI use (RAND, 2025)
- Educators want practical examples, clear policy guidance, advanced strategies—not AI basics
- AI literacy ≠ AI ethics alone, tool training, or digital citizenship—but builds on media and data literacy

Educator AI Use



Formal Training and Policy Coverage





Defining AI Literacy: The Framework's Core Definition

AI literacy: critically understand, use, and evaluate AI systems

Goal: safe, ethical participation in an increasingly digital world

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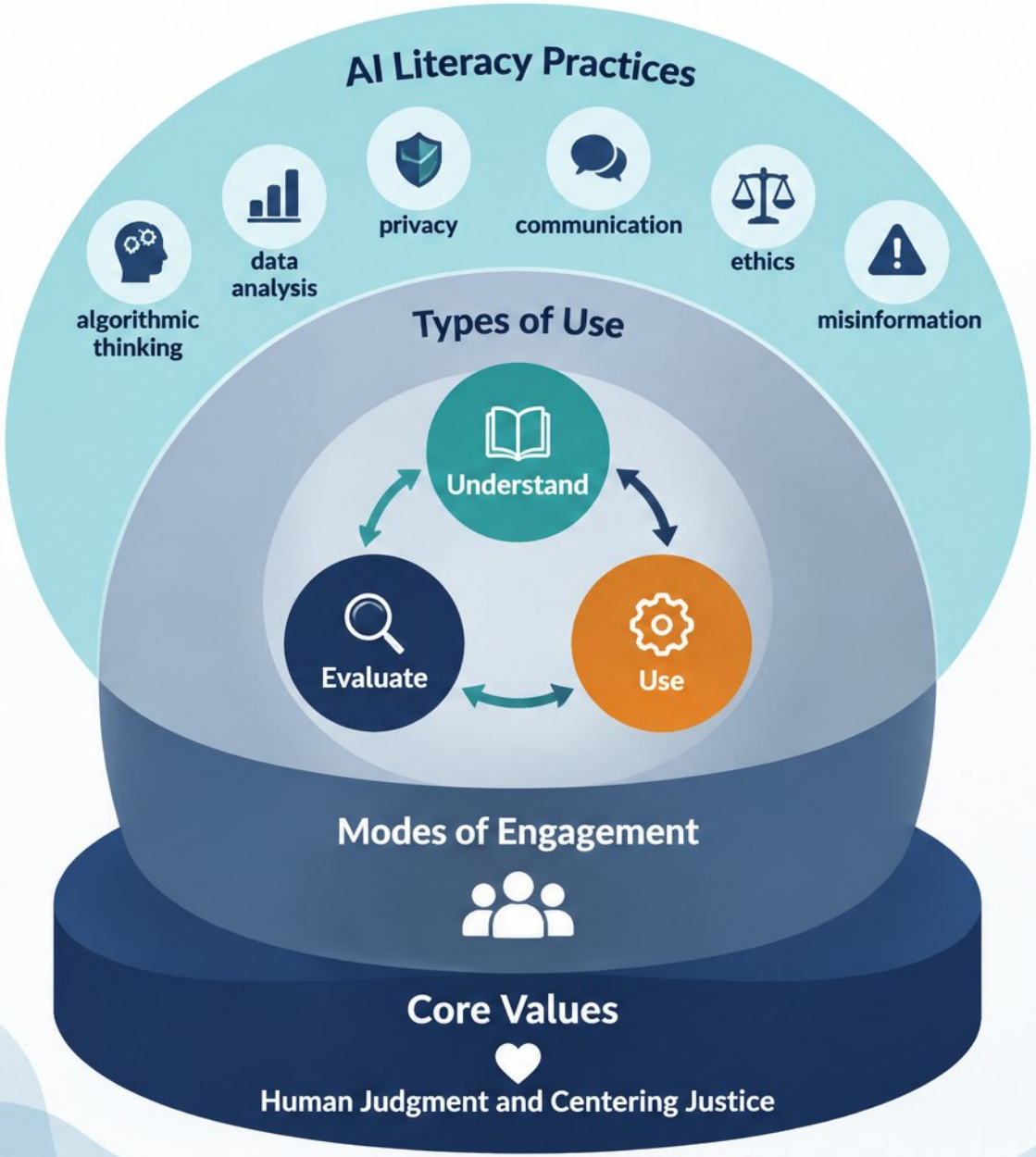
Audiences: learners, teachers, education leaders, and caregivers (PK–12)

Design stance: understanding and evaluating precede deciding if and how to use

Builds on digital readiness, media literacy, computational thinking, 21st century skills



Framework Architecture at a Glance



Four layers: Core Values, Modes of Engagement, Types of Use, AI Literacy Practices

Core Values — Human Judgment and Centering Justice — anchor every layer

Understand, Evaluate, Use are interconnected, not a rigid sequence

Six practices: algorithmic thinking, data analysis, privacy, communication, ethics, misinformation

Same components apply across roles; depth and emphasis shift



Core Values: Human Judgment and Centering Justice



Human Judgment: AI supports decisions; educators remain the final arbiters.

Centering Justice: Ask who benefits, who is harmed, and who is missing.

Verify AI outputs before use; model "think first, then prompt."

Require students to justify when they override AI suggestions.

Equity lens: address cost, device, language, and disability barriers.

These values govern every practice and type of use—not add-ons.

Mode of Engagement 1: Understand AI

Understanding AI is a technical knowledge set: data, algorithms, training, inference, generative models

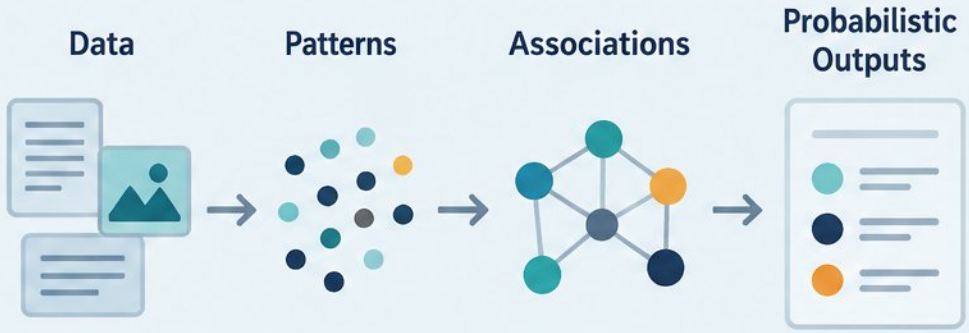
Extends computational thinking: algorithmic thinking, pattern recognition, abstraction, decomposition

AI uses large datasets to build associations and automate predictions—probabilistic, not human reasoning

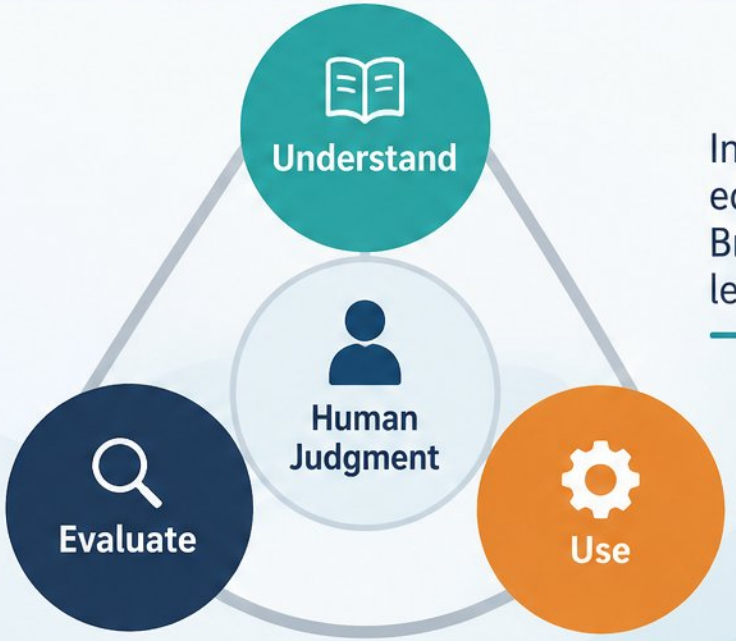
Spot AI features in edtech: adaptive platforms, recommenders, chatbots, image generators, feedback tools

Translate concepts by grade band—no teacher needs to become a computer scientist

Links to practices: Algorithmic Thinking, Abstraction & Decomposition; Data Analysis & Inference



Generative models learn from data to find patterns, build associations, and generate new content.

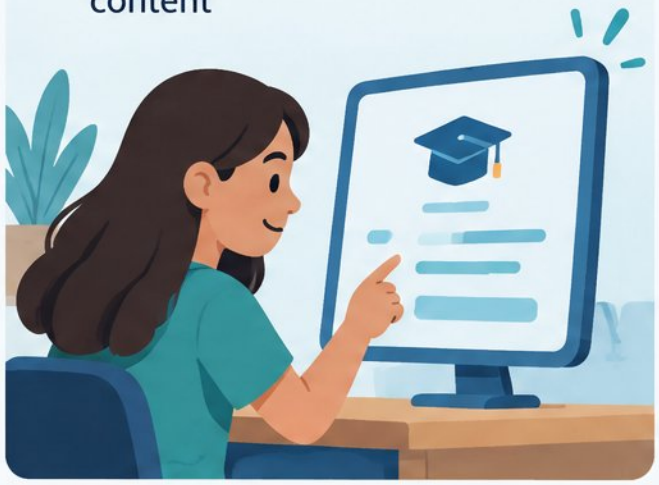


Informed educators. Brighter learning.

Mode of Engagement 2: Use AI—Interact, Create, Problem Solve

Interact

- **Interact:** engaging systems that collect data to give automated decisions and suggestions — e.g., an edtech platform that tailors content



Create

- **Create:** using AI systems to develop synthetic content — e.g., an image generator for classroom visuals



Problem Solve

- **Problem Solve:** developing AI systems to process and predict information — e.g., an AI sensor boat monitoring water quality



Progression

- **Progression:** scaffold interaction and creation first, then move to open-ended problem solving as judgment matures



Classroom habits

- **Classroom habits:** iterative prompting, source checking, corroboration, and reflection keep students "the boss" of the AI



Mode of Engagement 3: Evaluate AI

- Evaluate centers human judgment and justice—weigh benefits and costs
- Four evaluation practices: data privacy, mis/disinformation, communication, ethics
- Know what data an algorithm uses, how it's shared, and privacy implications
- Vet tools for accuracy, bias, transparency, data protection, accessibility, alignment
- Practice: spot missing perspectives, lateral reading, revise or reject output



From Framework to Curriculum Design

- Map practices and modes of engagement to objectives and evidence of learning
- Use age-appropriate entry points: everyday AI in grades 3–5, provenance and problem solving in grades 9–12
- Embed AI literacy in writing, science, civics, and math—not a standalone course
- Build on computational thinking, digital citizenship, media literacy, and data literacy initiatives
- Vet tools against framework values; use a consistent routine: ask → prompt → evaluate output

AI LITERACY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

	Writing	Science	Civics	Math
Grades 3–5	Explore ideas and express understanding with AI support	Ask questions and investigate real-world topics with AI	Consider different perspectives with AI	Use AI to explore and explain mathematical ideas
Grades 9–12	Analyze sources and strengthen argumentation with AI	Use AI to examine data and develop solutions	Evaluate provenance and address societal problems with AI	Model, reason, and solve problems with AI

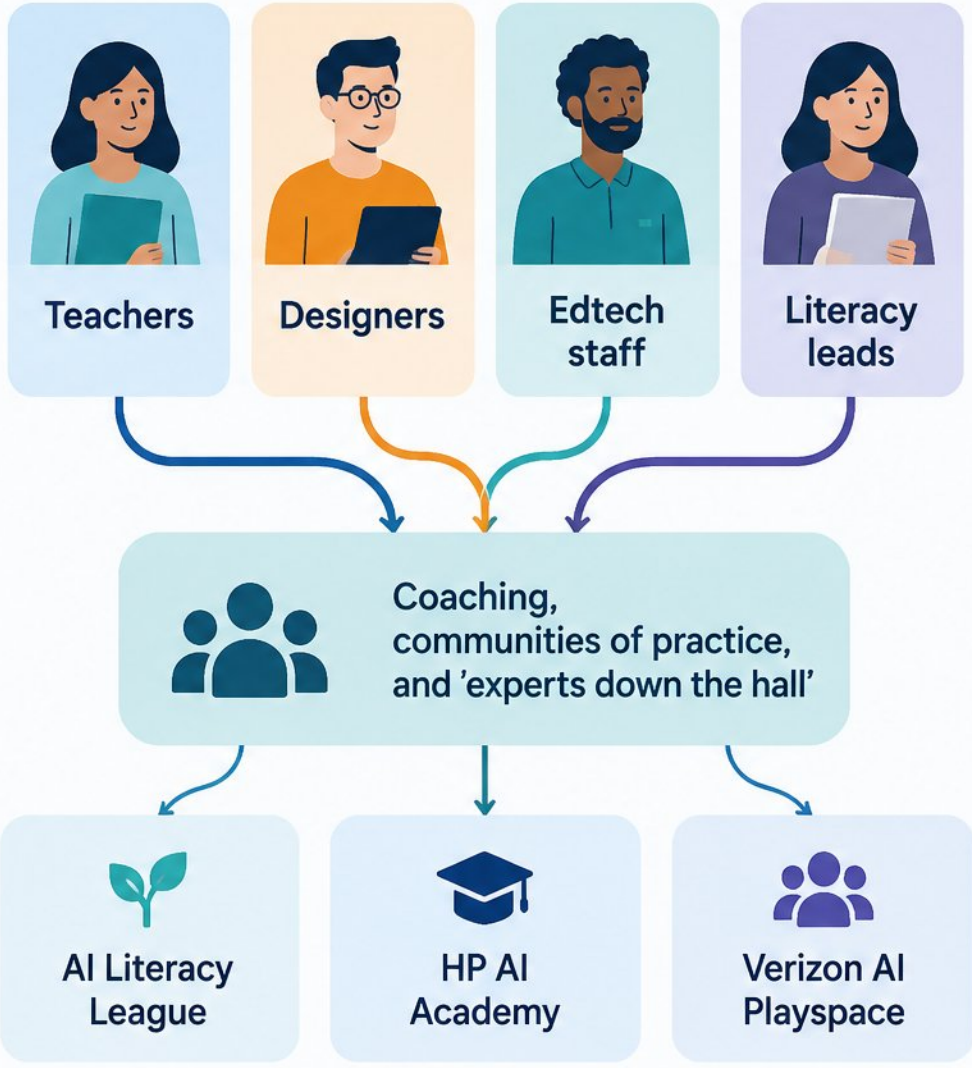
PRACTICES THAT SUPPORT LEARNING





Professional Learning and Capacity Building

- Design PD for every framework component — intro to practical strategies
- Five leadership strategies: adoption guidance, cross-subject integration, just-in-time PD, powerful experiences, awareness
- Differentiate by role: teachers, designers, edtech staff, literacy leads
- Sustain with coaching, communities of practice, and 'experts down the hall'; AI Literacy League, HP AI Academy, Verizon AI Playspace
- Measure growth using the six practices as look-fors, plus surveys and observations



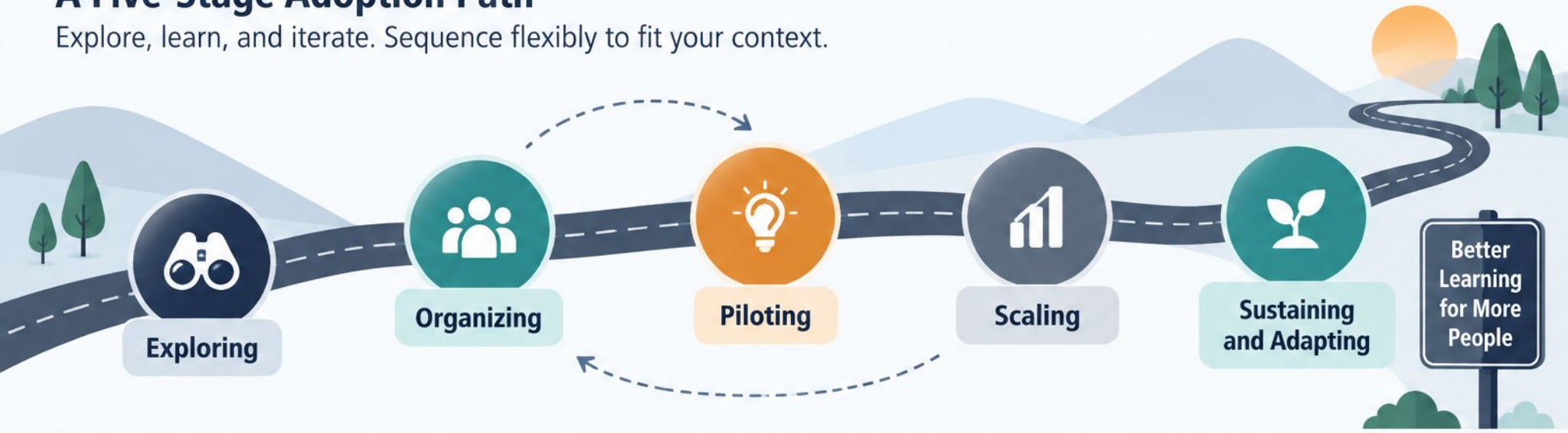
Key stat: **37%** of educators report no AI PD (NGCP, 2026)

Implementation Roadmap and Common Pitfalls

People
Purpose
Progress

A Five-Stage Adoption Path

Explore, learn, and iterate. Sequence flexibly to fit your context.



Sequence flexibly
to fit local governance, resources, and priorities

Assign clear roles
across leaders, coaches, librarians, technology staff, teachers

Keep a human in the loop
for every AI-assisted decision

Common pitfalls
tool-first thinking, inconsistent policy, uneven access, endless pilots

Equity check
do uses remove barriers of disability, geography, language, cost?

Success indicators
practice shifts, goal alignment, review cycles, stakeholder feedback

Application Workshop: Map a Lesson to the Framework

- Take a lesson you already teach; map it to all four framework layers
- Core Values: Human Judgment and Centering Justice at the center
- Modes of Engagement: Understand, Evaluate, Use—interconnected, not sequential
- Types of Use: Interact, Create, Problem Solve
- Name at least two AI Literacy Practices; capture one revision before leaving



Lesson-Mapping Template

Learning Goal

Type of Use

AI Literacy Practice

Evidence of Judgment

Equity Notes

Application Workshop: Evaluate a Tool and Plan Next Steps

AI Tool

- Bias
- Accuracy
- Privacy
- Transparency
- Accessibility
- Alignment



Teachers draft routines



Curriculum designers map integration



Edtech staff draft vetting steps



Literacy leads outline a PD pathway

Scenario review: score a real AI tool on bias, accuracy, privacy, transparency, accessibility, and alignment

Checklist walkthrough: data collection, AI-content labeling, student data protection, educator agency, and evidence of effectiveness

Reflection and Q&A: what will you start, stop, and continue?

Resource roundup: Digital Promise framework paper, expanded framework, AI in Education briefs, and implementation briefs



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