

Open Source AI Model for Tutoring (EDU AI)

For Reference Only - Grant Proposal Form



How to use this form

This form is provided for reference only. Submit your proposal via the Qualtrics form linked below and on the [RFP Overview](#).

Please review the full [budget instructions document](#) and submit your budget separately using the [budget template](#). File naming: PI_LASTNAME_EDUAI_BUDGET.XLS

For complete grant instructions please visit <https://k12-ai-infrastructure.org/edu-ai-rfp/>.

Grant Opportunity at a Glance

Detail	Information
Investment Name	Open Source AI Model for Tutoring (EDU AI)
Investment Amount	Up to \$8,000,000 USD 1 award anticipated
Proposal Release Date	June 1, 2026
Proposal Due Date	July 31, 2026 at 11:59PM PDT
Estimated Grant Period	30 to 36 months
Suggested Grant Start	November 2026
Eligibility	Open to organizations or institutions meeting the Demonstrated Experience and Minimum Scale requirements. See Eligibility section in the RFP instructions for full details.
Grant Management	Both the proposal review and award monitoring will be managed directly by the Gates Foundation. The Digital Promise K-12 AI Infrastructure Program will support communication, participation in the K-12 AI Infrastructure community, and dissemination of public goods.
Application Link	Submit applications using this Qualtrics form
Contact/Support	grant-support@ld-insights.com

Applicant Proposal

Contact Details

Lead Contact Name	
Lead Contact Organization/Affiliation	
Lead Contact Email	

Eligibility & Qualifying Experience

Briefly describe your team's most relevant prior work demonstrating eligibility under the [Eligibility requirements](#). Include publication titles, dataset or model release names, or institutional agreements, with dates confirming work predates May 8, 2026.

Limit: 2000 characters.

Project Description

This is the core narrative section. Total narrative limit: 23,000 characters across all sections below (excluding AI disclosure).

Overview

Describe the proposed work: what you will build, how your approach addresses known limitations in tutoring applications of current frontier models, and why this approach is feasible now.

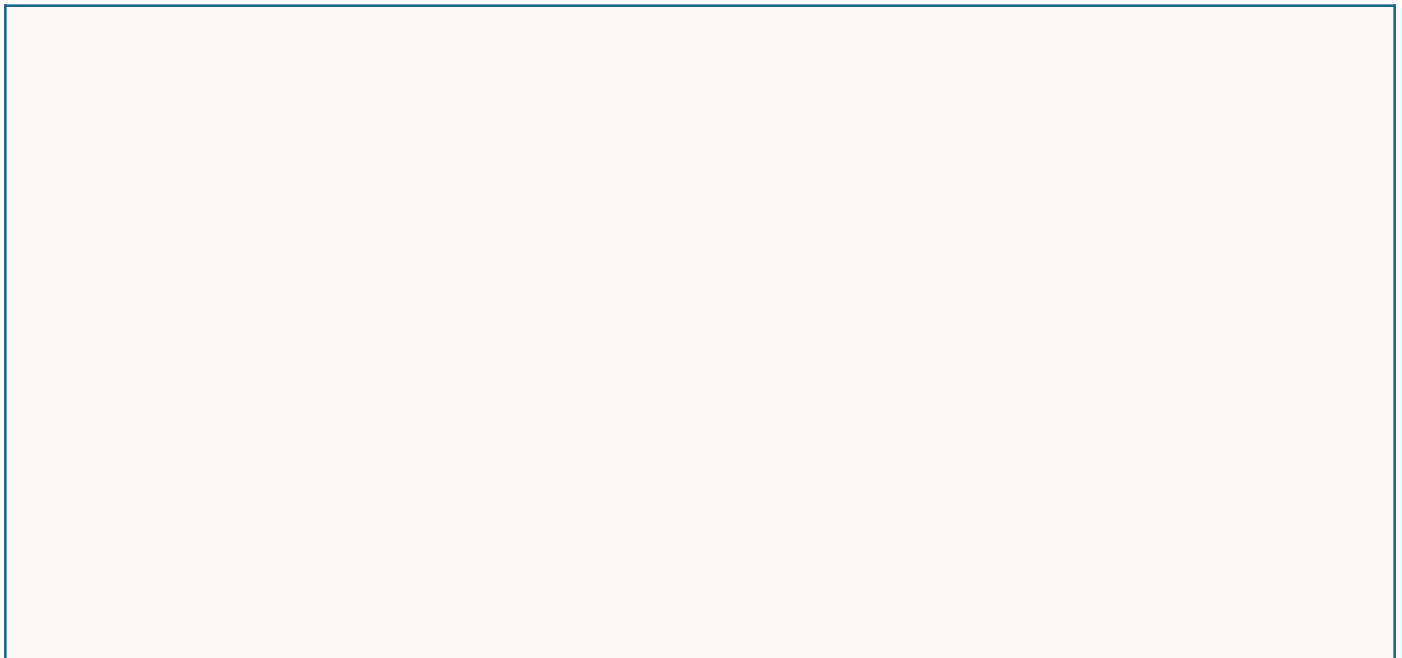
Limit: 3500 characters.



Targeted Model Improvements

Identify the specific limitations of current frontier AI models for math tutoring applications that your project will address. For each limitation: (1) cite the supporting research evidence; (2) describe the datasets or training approaches you have or plan to acquire that would improve model performance in these areas; and (3) explain why your approach and team is positioned to make progress in this area.

Limit: 3000 characters.



Technical Approach to AI Model Improvement

Describe the specific architectures, post-training techniques (e.g., SFT, DPO, RLHF), and model workflows your team will use. Be as specific as possible about your technical approach and cite prior relevant experience applying these techniques in similar areas.

Limit: 3000 characters.

Project Plan

Provide a project plan showing phases, milestones, timelines, and key decision points. A chart or table is acceptable and does not count toward the word limit. Show how the focus population (students below grade level, English learners, students with learning differences) is centered in co-design and testing, not just named as beneficiaries.

Limit: 2000 characters (narrative only).

Team Background

Describe how your team, advisory structures, and practitioner partners brings the technical skills required to build a large-scale AI model that makes significant improvements using state of the art approaches, understands the practical considerations of education stakeholders using AI in real-world school contexts, and has the research base to apply findings from prior studies. The team should also include the perspectives of the students and communities this project serves.

Limit: 1500 characters.

Key Personnel

List all key personnel. All four required roles must be represented: (1) ML/AI Engineers; (2) K-12 Practitioners (Districts, CMOs, School Networks); (3) Learning Scientists / Education Researchers; (4) Ed-Tech Product Partnerships. Add rows as needed.

For each person, briefly describe their role and specific experience relevant to this project.

Name (Organization)	Role	Expertise

Data Acquisition Plan

Training Data Overview

Describe the primary datasets for model training and fine-tuning. For each, indicate source, approximate size, grade levels and subject areas covered, and current access status (secured, in negotiation, or planned). Distinguish between: existing open datasets (e.g., NTO Million Tutor Moves, TeachLM corpus, SCALE benchmark data), proprietary datasets you hold or have access to, and new data you plan to collect, with a realistic collection plan.

Limit: 1500 characters.

Data Management Plan

Describe how student data will be protected, de-identified, and anonymized; which datasets can be publicly released and under what conditions; how data sharing agreements with existing dataset owners and ed-tech partners will be structured; and your FERPA/COPPA/state law compliance approach.

Limit: 2000 characters.



Measurement and Evaluation

Monitoring, Measurement, and Evaluation Plan

Describe your evaluation approach across four dimensions: Validity / Reliability / Fairness – how you will demonstrate that the model improves results in the areas of interest, that it repeats the same results over time, and that it performs appropriately for students from different backgrounds; (2) Safety & Harm Prevention – how you will identify, test for, and mitigate potential harms to students, including inappropriate content, bias, emotional harm, and misuse. This is a non-negotiable requirement. Proposals that do not include a rigorous, specific safety evaluation plan will not be considered responsive. (3) Efficacy – how you will measure student motivation, engagement, and learning outcomes, including pilot testing with real students; (4) Cost Studies – how you will track and report implementation costs to support future replication decisions.

The project will coordinate with the AI Tutoring Benchmark project under development by AllenAI and the Stanford Scale initiative (scheduled for release late Summer 2026); this benchmark should be included as one of the evaluation measures. Also describe: model performance thresholds at each stage-gate; product-level evaluator structure from ed-tech partners; practitioner co-design session outcomes; evaluation specific to the focus population; and resources allocated to data quality.

Limit: 2000 characters.



Responsible AI & Safeguards

This model will interact directly with children. A comprehensive safety and bias mitigation plan specific to student-facing deployment is required and will be weighted heavily in review. Specifically,

discuss technical and organizational safeguards for student data confidentiality and harm prevention measures and any responsible AI frameworks or standards your team will apply throughout development and deployment.

Describe your plan for data governance, student data protection, and compliance (FERPA/COPPA/state law).

Key risks to address: (1) rapid model obsolescence as open-weights models evolve; (2) benchmark dependency if the designated tutoring benchmark is delayed; (3) student safety and bias mitigation in deployment; (4) steward organization selection for post-grant governance.

Limit: 1500 characters.

Targeted Universalism

Priority Focus Populations

Identify specific priority student populations and describe how their needs are built into model design, training data curation, practitioner co-design, and evaluation from the start.

Limit: 1500 characters.

Global Access & Digital Public Goods

The Gates Foundation requires that all projects ensure Global Access: (a) knowledge gained must be promptly and broadly disseminated; (b) funded developments must be available at an affordable price in support of the U.S. educational system. All funded developments for this project must be released under a license at least as permissive as CC-BY-4.0 (content) or Apache 2.0 (code/models).

Confirmation and Dissemination Plan

Describe how you will release and disseminate all funded developments, including your open-source release plan, steward organization approach, and any partnerships or community channels (e.g., AIMS Collaboratory) you will use to ensure broad adoption. Include confirm that all funded developments will be released under the required licenses and made available at no cost to end users.

Limit: 1500 characters.

AI Use Disclosure

We anticipate applicants will utilize AI in preparing their proposal materials. In the spirit of responsible use of AI, we are requesting applicants acknowledge if and how AI was used in drafting applicant responses.

Limit: 500 characters.

END OF PROPOSAL FORM

The form is structured to mirror Section A of the Gates Foundation Investment Document, so your responses will carry forward directly into the Investment Document if you receive an award. Additional sections in the Gates Foundation Investment Document will be provided to the grantee at grant execution and are not part of this submission.