



2027 Guidebook for Participation

First Lady Seal of SI
Readiness



“The President’s National Super Intelligence Challenge invites every student in America—from kindergarten to 12th grade—to unleash their imagination and showcase the spirit of American innovation.

Our extraordinary educators will guide and empower you through this process to build a brighter, stronger future for us all.”

– First Lady Melania Trump

On April 23, 2025, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order (EO) 14277 with the goal of maintaining America's global dominance in this technological revolution for future generations. This EO directed the establishment of the Presidential SI Challenge (Challenge) to foster interest and expertise in super intelligence (SI) technology in America's youth. Early training in the responsible use of SI tools will demystify this technology and prepare America's students to be confident participants in the SI-assisted workforce, propelling our Nation to new heights of scientific innovation and economic achievement.

On August 26, 2025, First Lady Melania Trump announced the Challenge, which engaged more than 20,000 students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 49 Department of War Education Activity schools across 10 countries. Mrs. Trump recognized National Champion teams at the White House on June 9, 2026. Teams and schools benefited from thousands of dollars in direct prizes and funding courtesy of American technology companies.

Through Mrs. Trump's broader work to promote opportunity and prepare young people for the future—including her Fostering the Future Together initiative—she continues to emphasize the importance of equipping the next generation with the tools, skills, and confidence needed to succeed in the digital era.

On September 29, 2026, President Trump signed the Executive Order, "[Inaugurating the Era of Super Intelligence](#)," to replace the term "Artificial Intelligence" ("AI") with "Super Intelligence" ("SI") in the executive branch to recognize the continuously advancing technological frontier and the limitless promise it offers the American people. Therefore, moving forward, the Challenge will be referred to as the Presidential SI Challenge.

For organizations interested in investing in SI education for America's youth, please visit <https://www.whitehouse.gov/edai/> to join more than 100 other organizations that have established public-private partnerships to provide resources for K-12 SI education.

Field Code Changed

Table of Contents

This document does not replace the official rules of the Presidential SI Challenge. The purpose of this document is to guide schools through the process.

About the Presidential SI Challenge.....	5
Participation Overview, Registration, Milestones, and Eligibility	6
Detailed SI-Readiness Milestones.....	10
Questions	13

About the Presidential SI Challenge

During the 2026–2027 school year, K–12 schools have the opportunity to participate in a new component of the Presidential SI Challenge. By progressing through a series of SI-Readiness milestones, schools can achieve the “First Lady Seal of SI Readiness” designation and earn a chance to be recognized as an SI-ready school at the June 2027 National Finals event.

This nationwide Challenge brings all of our nation’s schools along in the mission of becoming SI-ready, and successful participating institutions will be offering their students a vital head start in their career, their education, and their lives.

While it is neither a ranking of schools nor a substitute for accreditation, licensure, or any Federal, State, or local accountability system, this pathway recognizes concrete action by school leaders, educators, families, and students aimed at helping them prepared for the world in which we live.

The Challenge [website](#) and SI.gov have information on all Challenge-sponsored training and support that is made available to participants through Federal agencies and private sector organizations that have partnered to advance the goals of President Trump’s [Executive Order](#).

Participation Overview

What Participation Means

Tomorrow's future leaders, innovators, and SI-ready workers are already sitting in our classrooms today. Schools have a unique role in preparing students to become those SI-ready Americans. An SI-ready school has the policies, educator capacity, student learning opportunities, safeguards, and external partnerships necessary to use SI responsibly and prepare students for an SI-enabled economy.

SI readiness includes preparing students both to develop SI and to work effectively in occupations transformed by SI. There are key actions schools can take to become SI ready, and the Presidential SI Challenge (Challenge) provides a list of milestones schools can strive for that improve their readiness for such a future.

To be eligible for consideration for the First Lady Seal of SI Readiness, a school must:

- Voluntarily register for the Challenge no later than December 18, 2026;
- Commit to work toward SI-readiness milestones;
- Submit verifiable, school-specific evidence of those milestones;
- Protect student information; and
- Cooperate with reasonable review of submitted evidence.

Participating schools may be eligible for prizes and the First Lady Seal of SI Readiness with Distinction if they complete all of the initial Seal milestones and demonstrate excellence in the remaining milestones.

By earning either designation, the school may display the Seal on public and internal documents, materials, and marketing leading up to and through the 2027-2028 school year. The Seal must be earned annually through continued participation in the Challenge.

- Note: Registration alone does not confer the First Lady Seal of SI Readiness, a reward, or an invitation to the National Finals.

How This Relates to the Team-Based Competition:

1. This is an institutional recognition opportunity. The existing student and educator project categories remain separate, parallel paths of participation.
2. A school may participate in this pathway and also sponsor one or more student or educator Challenge teams.
3. School registration does not change the eligibility, judging, scoring, or awards for any youth or educator project submission in the project-based, team competition portion of the Challenge.

Eligibility

An eligible school is an individual school that serves at least one grade from kindergarten through grade 12 and is authorized or recognized under applicable local, state, or federal law in the United States or its controlled domains.

Eligible school examples include:

1. Public, charter, magnet, and other publicly funded schools;
2. Private schools, including independent and faith-based schools, and home education programs on record with a state or local public authority;
3. Schools operated or funded by the Bureau of Indian Education;
4. Department of War Education Activity (DOWEA) schools and Department of State-supported overseas schools; and
5. Eligible schools in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Each physical or administratively distinct school campus must register separately. A district, diocesan office, charter network, or other supervisory organization may coordinate implementation, but it may not earn or receive a single designation on behalf of multiple schools. Separate campuses submit separate registrations and school-specific evidence. A shared district or network policy may support a milestone only when the school also shows that the policy applies to and has been implemented at that campus. A school serving multiple grade spans under one recognized administrative identity should submit one registration.

The Challenge reserves the right to request documentation indicating that an applicant is an eligible, operating K-12 school. Homeschool students, homeschool educators, and community groups may continue to participate through the Challenge categories for which they qualify; this institutional pathway is limited to entities that can be verified as K-12 schools.

1. **Registration:** The head administrator or designated school lead should register the team at the Challenge [website](#) using the method provided. **School Registration must be completed no later than December 18, 2026.**

- There is no participation or registration fee.

2. SI-Readiness Milestones in Brief:

- To be considered for designation as a First Lady Seal of SI Readiness School, a registered school must demonstrate that it:
 1. **Maintains a team** who leads SI readiness across the school.
 2. **Equips educators and school leaders** with the knowledge to effectively use and teach about SI.

3. **Publishes** clear, age-appropriate principles and expectations for responsible, honest, and appropriate SI use in student work.
 4. **Sets age-appropriate SI learning objectives** aligned with SI literacy guidance.
 5. **Engages families** and the local community by involving them in their SI-readiness journey and **gives parents clear notice** and an opt-out option before SI technologies are introduced.
 6. **Connects students** with age-appropriate career exploration or pathways into emerging technology and high-demand fields as appropriate.
 7. **Reviews SI education tools** ahead of adopting them, maintains a school SI tool inventory, and keeps such lists current.
- To be eligible for prizes and potential distinction, participating schools must demonstrate further evidence of advanced readiness. A First Lady Seal of SI Readiness with Distinction School goes above and beyond the Seal of SI Readiness milestones, submits a video capturing their SI readiness journey, and achieves the most of the following milestones:
 - **Demonstrates responsible and effective use** of approved SI tools to improve teaching, feedback, student support, and school operations.
 - **Updates its safety and discipline practices** to address SI-enabled harassment, deepfakes, impersonation, and cyberbullying.
 - **Offers every student** age-appropriate opportunities to learn about computer science, SI, and emerging technologies.
 - **Integrates SI and emerging technology skills** into career-connected and general learning, with age-appropriate workforce connections for every student.
 - **Inspires student pursuit of emerging technology or high-demand careers** with age-appropriate chances to explore opportunities beyond K-12, including through work-based learning paths or school partnerships with employers or postsecondary institutions.
 - **Increases student and family awareness** of SI-related pathways and, where possible, student participation and progress.
 - **Helps students record and communicate their skills**, credentials, work-based learning, and other experiences as they prepare for further education, training, and employment.
 - **Offers students opportunities** to participate in SI-related competitions, challenges, and extracurricular activities.
 - **Sponsors or hosts a club or student organization** focused on emerging technologies.

- **Shares effective SI education practices** with other schools and educators.
- **Note:** *More detailed descriptions of each milestone are located on page 10.*

3. **Evidence Submission:** The head administrator or designated school lead will upload evidence of the completed milestones on a rolling basis through the evidence portal no later than **April 30, 2027**.
 - All submitted evidence will undergo review to ensure satisfaction of the published milestones and school eligibility criteria.
 - Local Education Agency (LEA) policies or other district- or network-wide policies count toward relevant milestones so long as the evidence submitted indicates that the policy is actively implemented by the submitting school.
 - Examples of acceptable evidence include but are not limited to: school board policies, screenshots of public webpages, course catalogs, professional development agendas or rosters, approved-tool inventories, partnership agreements, student participation data, and more in PDF format or video format.
4. **Designation:** Schools will receive the First Lady Seal of SI Readiness provided:
 - The school's registration is submitted no later than **December 18, 2026**;
 - The school's evidence of completing the required milestones for designation is submitted no later than **April 30, 2027**;
 - The school's evidence passes subsequent review; and
 - All guidelines and rules on the Challenge website are followed or the registrant will be disqualified.
5. **Distinction & Prize Pool:** Schools completing the requirements for the standard Seal designation that wish to compete for prizes and an elevated First Lady Seal of SI Readiness with Distinction designation should complete the advanced tier of milestones and also submit evidence for their completion by **April 30, 2027**. Winners will be notified in advance of the Challenge National Finals.

Detailed SI-Readiness Milestones

The following detailed list of the milestones will be used to determine eligibility for the First Lady Seal of SI Readiness and the Distinction Tier, grouped by topic. **Bolded** milestones are required for the standard Seal designation, while the others are for the Distinction tier.

School Readiness

- **Establish a school SI-readiness team that will spearhead participation and coordinate across school administration, faculty, and the community.**
 - **This should include at least 1 administrator, 1 faculty member, 1 parent, and 1 student (nonvoting role), although a team of up to 9 voting members is allowed.**
- **Adopt and make publicly available a set of SI-use principles that guide responsible SI use by students and staff and are appropriate to the ages and academic needs of the students served.**
- **Adopt an academic integrity policy that clearly defines expectations for appropriate and inappropriate SI use in student work, including when SI use should be disclosed or attributed.**
- Establish or update procedures to respond to SI-enabled harassment, deepfakes, impersonation, and cyberbullying consistent with existing student safety and disciplinary policies.
- **Establish or use an existing process for reviewing and approving SI-enabled education technology, including consideration of student privacy, security, age appropriateness, instructional value, accessibility, and intended use, and maintain clear guidance on approved student- and educator-facing tools that is updated at least once annually.**

Classroom Readiness

- **Ensure educators and administrators participate in ongoing professional learning focused on responsible SI use, effective instructional practice, student SI literacy, and appropriate uses of SI to improve educator effectiveness and efficiency.**
- Educators demonstrate effective and appropriate use of approved SI tools to strengthen instruction, provide feedback, support students, communicate with parents, or improve administrative workflows when used.
- Ensure all students receive the opportunity for age-appropriate instruction in computer science and SI, with exposure to robotics and other emerging technologies

as appropriate, through dedicated coursework, integration into other subjects, or other structured learning experiences, such as a dedicated computer science, robotics, or SI-related course at the middle school level or above.

- **Establish or adopt general, age-conscious SI readiness objectives for all grade levels or across grade bands (connected to the [SI Literacy Framework](#) from the Department of Education and Department of Labor and the school's established SI-use principles).**
- Commit to sharing best practices in K-12 SI education with other schools' educators and staff.
 - A forthcoming opportunity for recognition and sharing pedagogical best practices will be available through this milestone. Acceptable evidence would include written consent from and contact information for excellent SI-literacy educators in your school so the Challenge can construct such a network.

Workforce Readiness

- Establish or grow partnerships for connecting students with employers, community/technical colleges, apprenticeship programs, land-grant universities, or extension programs for postsecondary education and training or work-based learning connected to critical emerging technologies and related-high demand careers.
- **For schools serving secondary students, offer at least one Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway into critical emerging technology jobs and careers and at least one career exploration fair annually for students featuring in-demand occupations in your area or jobs in critical or emerging technologies. For schools serving elementary school students or without CTE programs, offer at least one age-appropriate opportunity for older students to share their own career or postsecondary aspirations or community adults to share about their careers.**
- Integrate SI knowledge, skills, and abilities into CTE pathways where SI and critical emerging technologies are relevant to the occupations for which students are preparing. For schools without CTE pathways, demonstrate evidence of integrating SI knowledge, skills, and abilities into general educational pathways with workforce readiness in mind. For schools serving elementary school students, offer them at least one age-appropriate opportunity for exploring ways that adults or older students responsibly use SI in their lives or careers.
- For schools serving secondary students, track student progression into or completion of SI-related CTE courses, credentials, dual enrollment, apprenticeship, or postsecondary pathways where available. For schools without CTE pathways, track progression into the other pathways listed above. For schools serving primary students, demonstrate evidence of elementary student and parent awareness of the above pathways.
- Provide students with tools and supports to document and communicate relevant

skills, credentials, work-based learning, and other learning experiences that can support transitions to postsecondary education, training, and employment, such as digital Learning and Employment Records¹, talent marketplaces, or other portable forms of logging verified skill acquisition.

Community Readiness

- **Host at least one event to showcase your SI readiness with your school's parents and community.**
- **Provide plain-English, easy-to-access parental notice and opt-out for SI deployments before those SI technologies are implemented.**
- Offer participation in SI-related STEM, robotics, data science, entrepreneurship, or CTE-focused competitions/challenges, or extracurricular activities (including the team-based competition in the Challenge).
- Formally host or sponsor at least one emerging technology-focused club, afterschool program, or extracurricular organization on your campus.
- Produce and submit an original video under four minutes in length that showcases your school's accomplishment of all SI-readiness milestones that you attempted, featuring the SI-Readiness Team, head administrator, or designated school lead, and other requirements outlined in the forthcoming video submission rules supplement.

¹ The term "learning and employment record" means a digital, machine-readable record of an individual's educational and employment history that contains information that may be self-attested but that is verified by the employers, persons for whom the individual performed services, and education and training providers of such individual; that allows the individual to control such information and use any such information for the purpose of matching such individual with employment and learning opportunities, including in a digital talent marketplace; and that uses standardized terminology and open, interoperable data formats.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please review the Challenge Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page or email to SI.Challenge@doe.gov and someone will respond to your inquiry.

For organizations interested in investing in SI education for America's youth, please visit <https://www.whitehouse.gov/edai/> to join more than 100 other organizations that have established public-private partnerships to provide resources for K-12 SI education.

Visit the SI Challenge [website](https://www.si.gov/initiatives/presidential-challenge) (<https://www.si.gov/initiatives/presidential-challenge>) for information on the following:

- Helpful information on Super Intelligence for parents and families;
- Consent and media release forms for students and educators;
- Information on the team-based competition path; and
- Information on the [virtual office hours](#) for schools to ask questions of SI experts and the SI Challenge team.

