Skill-Building Exemplar

Teaching Lab

Who We Are & What We Do

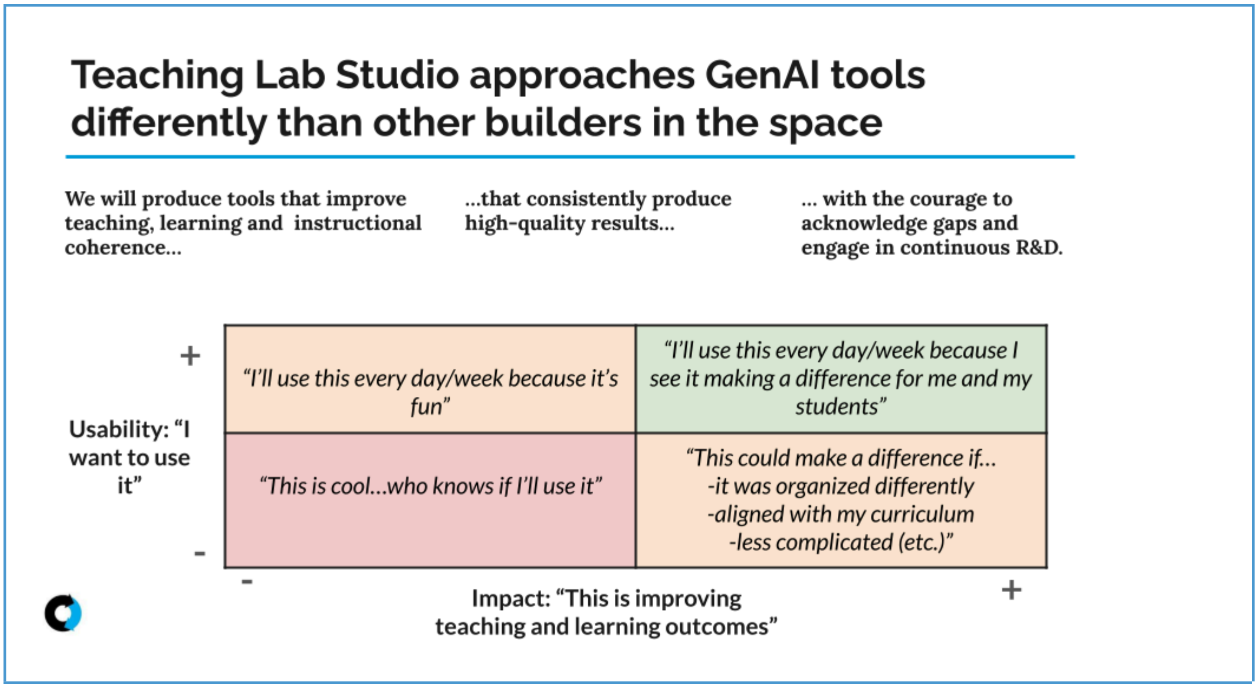
Teaching Lab is a U.S. national education nonprofit with a mission to fundamentally shift the paradigm of teacher professional learning for educational equity. Teaching Lab specializes in curriculum-based professional learning, serving 50 school systems across 24 states and reaching over 10,000 educators.

As more districts look for practical guidance on AI, Teaching Lab has become a national leader of AI research and implementation in schools. Today, Teaching Lab Studio, a strategic initiative of Teaching Lab, offers AI-enabled tools and professional learning that are all driven by teacher pain points, continuous learning and improvement, and rapid studies to measure outcomes.

How We Think About Skill-Building in Our Design Process

Teaching Lab's portfolio includes Coteach, an AI planning assistant that supports districts using the Illustrative Math curriculum. Coteach allows teachers to customize and differentiate lessons using AI that is trained on learning science and the school's curriculum. By enabling more personalized and responsive lesson planning, Coteach helps teachers thoughtfully design scaffolds, whether it's incorporating language supports for English learners or generating strategies for peer-to-peer learning. Teaching Lab developed Coteach with direct input from more than 1,000 educators. Today, over 80% of teachers on Coteach consistently use the tool, and Teaching Lab is currently researching its effectiveness in classrooms.

In addition to offering tools such as Coteach that solve specific pain points, Teaching Lab also builds AI skills and mindsets via teacher professional learning. Teaching Lab's hands-on approach puts the teacher in the driver's seat to identify their needs and be the creators of AI prototypes tailored to those needs. This helps them to both understand and evaluate emerging technologies. Using Teachinglab.ai, an in-house AI tool-building sandbox, Teaching Lab trainers help educators learn the basics of AI prompting, practice writing their own prompts, and model edits off exemplars developed by Teaching Lab subject matter experts. This iterative process encourages educators to analyze, evaluate, and refine their thinking—key components of critical thinking—as they experiment with and adapt AI tools to meet real instructional challenges. In a collaborative guided format, the process of collaboration is as valuable as the final products.



Why Skill-Building Is Important in Our Product

Unlike other builders in the space that might prioritize technology adoption at the expense of effectiveness or the development of durable skills, Teaching Lab seeks to balance both aims at all stages, from early-stage product development to implementation in schools. As a result, educators don’t just use our tools to save time—they actively refine them as they improve their own practice. As a baseline, they see evidence-based content developed by Teaching Lab. They can further adapt those outputs in ways that would be difficult or time-consuming without AI support. This hands-on, reflective process cultivates critical thinking by encouraging educators to iterate on their ideas and make intentional, evidence-based decisions for their students while simultaneously building their AI literacy.

"I liked having the opportunity to put into words what exactly I would like a tool to do while being able to talk this through with others."

— Teaching Lab teacher