

Hands-on with AI Tools

How Texas educators are building AI that actually works for students, teachers, and leaders

Slides: bit.ly/PlaylabTX

Texas educators who said: let's try it.



Dr. Sarah Gudenkauf

Playlab Learning Partner for Texas

**MS/HS science & Ag teacher, Instructional
Coach and Director of Curriculum**



Mera Dougherty

Playlab Head of K-12 Partnerships

**ECE - MS RLA teacher, Principal,
Principal Supervisor**

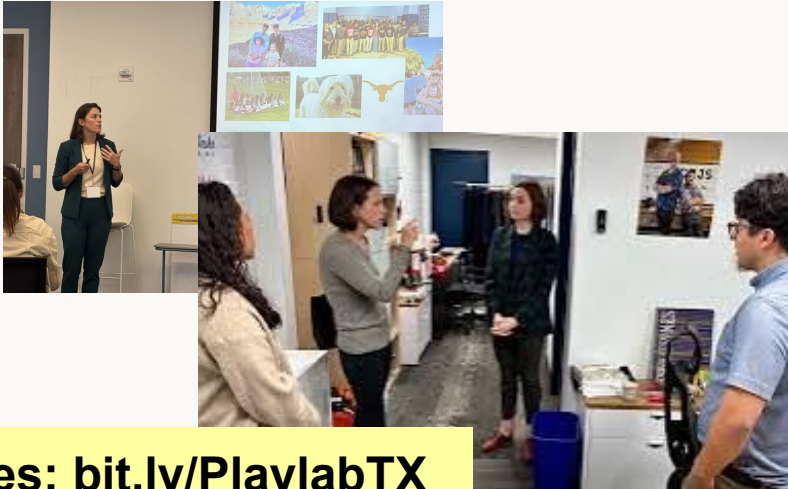
The problem isn't dedicated teachers or principals

It's the gap between everything that principals know about good teaching and the time it takes to coach every teacher in the building



The problem isn't dedicated teachers or principals

Goal: feedback for every teacher in the building, aligned to their district goals, TEKS, T-TESS, and resources like Teach Like a Champion and Get Better Faster.



Leader Tool: [Teacher Coaching Action Step Creator](#)

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Meet Susan.

Chief Academic Officer
Wayside Schools

5 schools

~1,800 students

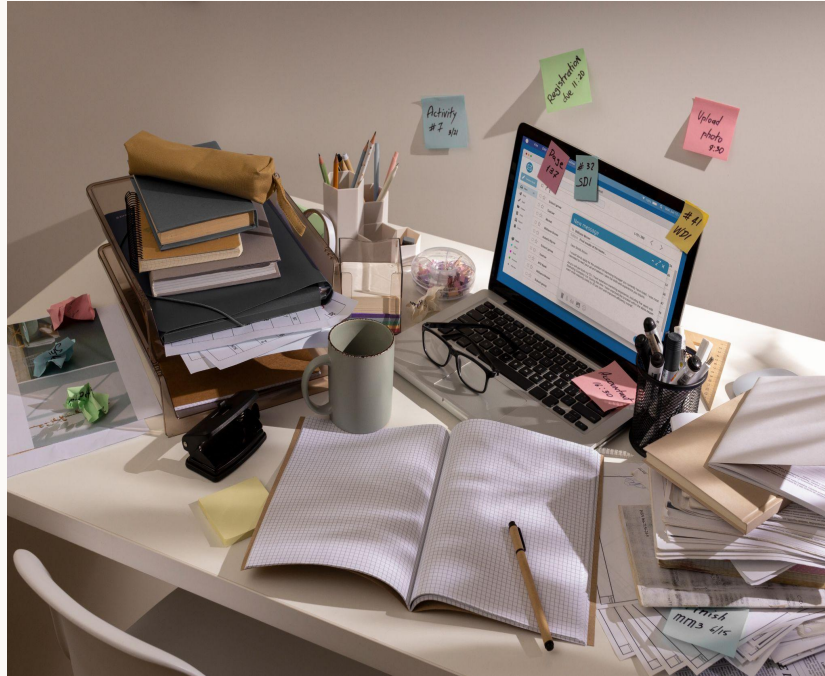
80%+ emergent bilingual

Multiple HQIM adoptions



The problem isn't the curriculum.

It's the gap between what's in the HQIM and what ends up in front of students.



Her teachers had the materials. They just weren't using them.



Lesson planning: 45–90 min per teacher per week.

Materials were dense. Time was scarce.

"I want to use it. I just don't have time to internalize it all and ensure it addresses my students' needs."

So she built something that she could scale to every classroom, pulling directly from the HQIM.



Teacher Tool: [4th Math Lesson Planning App](#)



Teacher Tool: [English II Lesson Planning App](#)

Slides: bit.ly/PlaylabTX

And enabled teachers to build from there.



Active apps ⓘ



116

of 278 total apps

Small Groups Lesson Creator

This app will give you data driven small groups, misconceptions, guiding questions, lesson ideas, and STAAR aligned exit tickets for each small group.

For a reading TEKS, the app will also create passages for each group!

What grade level are you working with? (optional)

What subject do you teach?

Please upload any data that could help create small groups. (optional)

Attach a file, up to 5 MB.

Supports docx, xlsx, pptx, pdf, csv, tsv, txt, md, json, jpeg, png, gif, webp.

 Select file

Start

The creators of this app can review your usage, never share personal information.
AI is not intended to give professional, legal, medical or financial advice.

What teachers said.

“Discovering how AI can support students and teachers in their everyday learning.

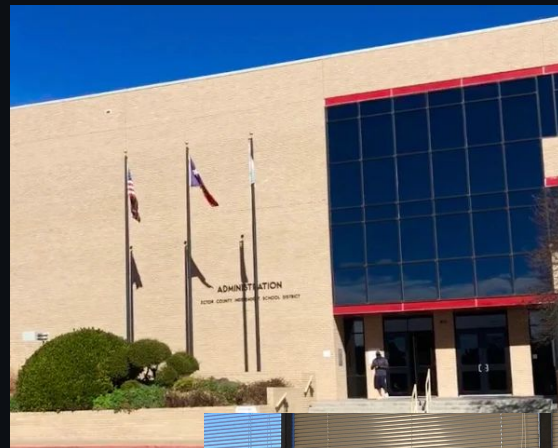
As a teacher sometimes it feels like a losing battle with not enough time to help students and Playlab allowed me to assist my students and create apps that enhance their learning.”

83%

of teachers say they want to find ways to solve more of their day-to-day challenges using AI

“I love how Wayside includes everyone in creating AI-driven apps. I wish we could get an AI certification from Wayside.”

Now imagine a district
Academics & Accountability
team serving
33,600+ students on
44 campuses



**Dr. Robert Trejo, CAO
Ector County ISD**

Supporting a new PLC process — every grade, every subject

Rolling out consistent PLCs across 44 campuses, all content areas, all grade levels — without a coach in every room.



Teacher & Leader Tool:
[ECISD PLC Cycle Coach](#)

What they built: an AI tool that guides teacher teams through a structured PLC protocol — consistent across every campus, supporting teachers to lead high-impact PLCs.

Paired with an app to support 6-week assessment data cycles

Data arrives every six weeks. What happens next, across 44 campuses, determines whether it changes anything.

What they built: a tool that helps teacher teams interpret results and identify instructional next steps — in a single planning session.



Teacher & Coach Tool:
[ECISD Data Tour](#)

Building AI Agency Spreads Impact



Xander the Math Tutor
Students get math support at home

A first year teacher built an app in his voice that students can use to get help without shortcutting their learning on ChatGPT.



Wayside Virtual Family Helper
Families get answers faster

A front offices reduces an estimated half to full day of answering the mostly commonly asked questions.



CivicLens
Students design the future they want to see

A team of three students design a competition winning app, solving a real problem facing them and their peers - what is real in the news?

AI Agency is a core competency of the future.

To be future-ready, students and educators need three things:

AI Literacy

*understanding **how**
AI works, its benefits,
and limitations*

+

Computational Fluency

*the ability to **design**
and **build systems**
with technology*

+

Discernment

*the ability to evaluate
AI systems for
outcome & impact*

Vision drives policy.

Not the other way around.

1 Deepen your own understanding by building something.

You can't write good AI policy from the outside. Get into the tools. Make something — even something small. Feel what's possible.

2 Envision what could be unlocked.

For your students. For your teachers. For your leaders. Let that vision be specific and ambitious before you write a single guideline.

3 Then build the policy that protects that vision.

Guidelines that start from fear stay small. Guidelines that start from vision create the conditions for your people to do their best work — safely.



Is a **tech non-profit**
building **open infrastructure**
for AI in education.



our theory of action:



Try it. Reach out.

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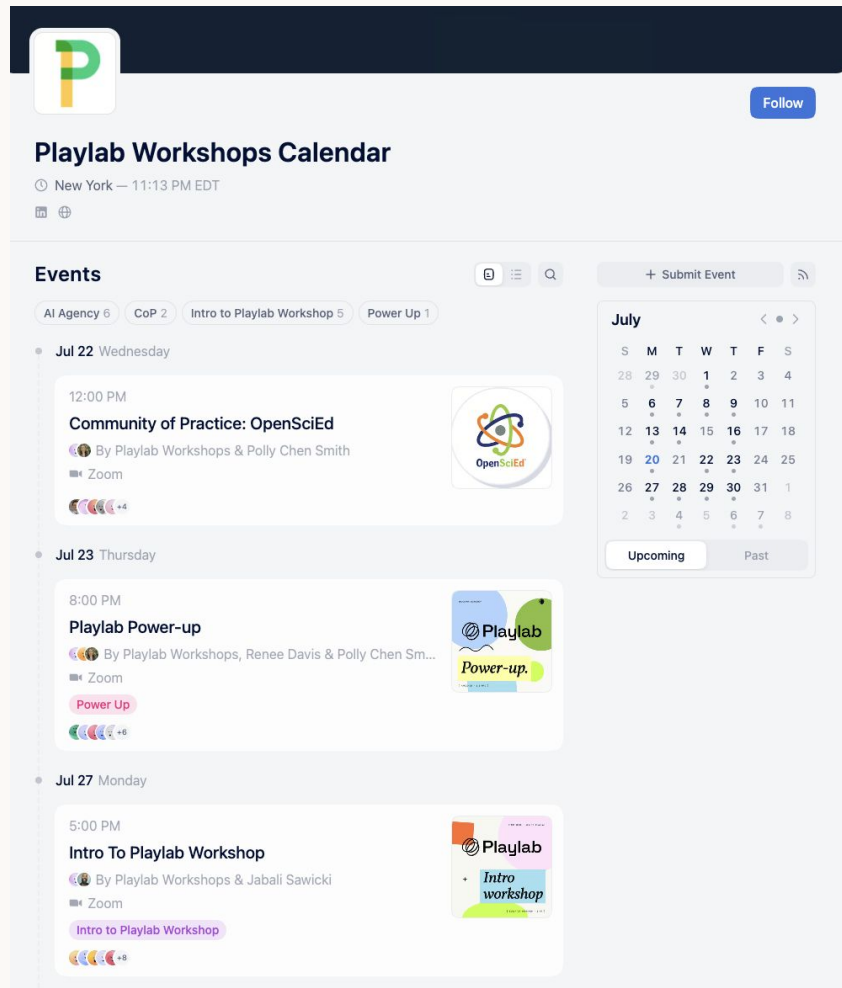
Sarah Gudenkauf

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learn.playlab.ai



The screenshot shows the Playlab Workshops Calendar website. At the top is a dark blue header with a logo consisting of a green 'P' on a white square. Below the header, the title "Playlab Workshops Calendar" is displayed, followed by the location and time "New York — 11:13 PM EDT". A "Follow" button is in the top right corner. The main content area is titled "Events" and features a filter bar with tabs: "AI Agency 6", "CoP 2", "Intro to Playlab Workshop 5", and "Power Up 1". A list of events is shown, each with a date, time, title, organizer, platform, and a thumbnail image. The events are:

- Jul 22 Wednesday**
 - 12:00 PM**
 - Community of Practice: OpenSciEd**
 - By Playlab Workshops & Polly Chen Smith
 - Zoom
 - Thumbnail: OpenSciEd logo
- Jul 23 Thursday**
 - 8:00 PM**
 - Playlab Power-up**
 - By Playlab Workshops, Renee Davis & Polly Chen Sm...
 - Zoom
 - Power Up
 - Thumbnail: Playlab Power-up logo
- Jul 27 Monday**
 - 5:00 PM**
 - Intro To Playlab Workshop**
 - By Playlab Workshops & Jabali Sawicki
 - Zoom
 - Intro to Playlab Workshop
 - Thumbnail: Playlab Intro workshop logo

On the right side of the calendar, there is a "July" calendar view showing the days of the month. Below the calendar are buttons for "Upcoming" and "Past".

PLAYLAB CURRICULUM • FREE

STUDENT AI AGENCY.

A 7–11 lesson curriculum where students learn
AI by **building** with it.

GET ACCESS

Or peek at a sample lesson

GRADES

7–10

TOTAL TIME

~7–11 hr

CS REQUIRED

None

<https://student-ai-agency-site/>

We can do this.

The educators in this room are exactly who Playlab was built for.

You don't need an engineering team.

You don't need a big budget.

You need a real problem and the willingness to try.

What would you build?