



Version: March 2026

The EdgeConnex Education Program

Working with our education partners, we're creating clear pathways from the classroom to careers in technology.

Our aim is to educate and empower the next generation of innovators, give back to local communities, and address a critical industry need.



Contents

The EdgeConneX Education Program Overview 3

Our Education Strategy & Goals 4-5

Partnering for Impact 6

Our Partners 7

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA 8

Hello World 9-10

Infrastructure Masons 11

The EdgeConneX Education Program in Action 12

Greater Atlanta, GA, USA 13

Newark, NJ, USA 14

Greater Austin, TX, USA 15

What's Next 16



connected to COMMUNITY



Program Overview



Education Strategy

Education Investment turns Data Centers into long-term economic partners for municipalities



Data centers succeed when communities succeed:

The data center industry relies on **skilled local talent** across various disciplines, including engineering, operations, IT, security, and sustainability.

- Additional opportunities in areas such as commercial, marketing, and legal fields

Education partnerships create pathways to high-quality, future-proof jobs for residents.

Developing local skills enhances regional economic resilience and fosters innovation by building robust ecosystems

Building our talent pool, EdgeConneX works to:

Introduce digital infrastructure careers at the earliest stage possible: high school / **STEM**

Partner with Universities and Colleges for technical pathways to align on curriculums for our industry requirements

Potential to provide 'hands on' experiences through internships, discovery weeks and online work-based learning programs

Industry collaboration with partners for **guest lecturing, future site tours and mentorship offerings**

Create lasting community value

Increased **local employment and career opportunities**

Stronger **STEM and technical education ecosystems**

Attraction of **innovation, technology investment, and related industries**

A reputation as a **future-ready, digitally enabled region**

Beyond direct hires, **our data centers act as anchors that support local businesses** and contribute to the broader prosperity of the community

Investing in Education ensures the digital economy benefits the communities that host it

Our Education Goals

*As of Feb 2026, through ECX's sponsorship, we have: 51 teachers, 37 schools with 18,240 students enrolled in the program.

Empowering the next generation of infrastructure leaders, we are:



Growing the talent the industry needs

Empowering the next generation of innovators

- By connecting education with real-world experience and through mentoring, hands-on projects, courses, internships, we help students build skills, confidence, and pathways to meaningful careers in the data center space.



Introducing young people to lucrative careers

- Structured pathways enable students to develop life skills, build confidence, and develop resilience outside of the traditional classroom



Bringing value to the communities in which we operate

- In under-resourced communities in particular, young people often need a boost up to the crucial first step on the career ladder. We aim to light a 'spark'.



connected to COMMUNITY



Partnering for Impact

EdgeConneX has formed a coalition of organizations, including new partners The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA Program and Hello World, as well as our longtime partner Infrastructure Masons. We're collaborating to co-create and deliver meaningful initiatives that expand innovation, possibility, and opportunity for students in the communities in which we operate.

Our Partners



We've committed to a 3-year partnership with the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA, an internationally recognized program that bridges the divide between formal education and career opportunities. The aim is to inspire and equip people aged 14 to 24 with the tools, skills, and confidence necessary to succeed in the rapidly evolving fields of digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and cloud technology.

Award USA has established relationships with global schools and communities, enabling us to reach more students.



Hello World offers an innovative computer science and STEM curriculum that leverages AI and VR technologies to bring tech learning into the modern era. We're also working with them to develop a data center-specific curricula to be delivered via their platform.

We've committed to sponsoring Hello World at schools in Greater Atlanta, GA and Greater Austin, TX. As an education platform, Hello World will enable us to reach more students more efficiently.



To expand the hands-on opportunities for students in the program, we've broadened our collaboration with Infrastructure Masons (iMasons), a global nonprofit professional association of which EdgeConneX was a founding member.

With hundreds of representative companies and thousands of members all focused on digital infrastructure, iMasons will enable us to offer more students hands-on learning opportunities – mentorships, internships, and other types of real-world learning along with career pathways.

Collaboration enables us to:

- Empower more young people
- Address the full ecosystem of skills needed for success
- Provide exposure to real-world challenges and opportunities

"It would be easy to feel overwhelmed by the worsening talent shortage in the data center industry. But I feel hopeful, because I see the power of collaboration to increase the reach and impact of every individual effort."

Angela Capon
VP of Marketing,
EdgeConneX

PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA

By integrating EdgeConneX expertise in digital infrastructure with Award USA's globally recognized framework, the program will provide participants with hands-on learning, mentorship, and exposure to real-world challenges and opportunities within the data center industry.

The aim is to develop a future talent pool to meet the growing demand for positions in the data center industry. Participants will delve into curriculum that highlights the essential role of digital infrastructure in society, from supporting global connectivity to driving advancements in AI-powered solutions.

The program emphasizes environmental stewardship, underscoring EdgeConneX dedication to building sustainable digital infrastructure while fostering global citizenship.

"Award USA is centered on developing character, resilience, and essential life skills through experiential learning. By connecting students with data center tours, industry speakers, and internship opportunities, our partnership with EdgeConneX provides a tangible framework for personal and professional growth. We are helping young people discover their potential and build meaningful pathways to rewarding careers."

Suzanne Currie

CEO, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA

"As a former participant in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Program, I've experienced firsthand the profound impact it can have on shaping character, resilience, and leadership. This partnership is deeply personal to me, as it represents an incredible opportunity to train and empower the next generation of infrastructure leaders with the life skills needed to drive meaningful change."

Michael Tobin

CBE, Chairman, EdgeConneX



Hello World

The Hello World curriculum leverages AI and VR to deliver immersive, project-based STEM experiences that spark curiosity, creativity, and real-world problem solving.

Designed for students from 1st through 12th grade, the program builds a continuous pathway in computer science and AI literacy, preparing students for the most influential and transformative roles in society.

“Hello World is proud to partner with EdgeConneX to expand access to cutting-edge computer science and STEM education in underserved communities. By harnessing the power of AI and VR technologies, we’re equipping students with the skills they need for the future of work, while empowering educators with the tools, training, and support to deliver world-class instruction.”

Sabina Bharwani

Founder and CEO, Hello World

Early Exposure is the Highest-Leverage Investment

- By 8th grade, career expectations are already predictive: students who expect a STEM career are 3.4x more likely to earn one.
- 65% of STEM graduate students and professionals report that the first “spark” that drove their interest began before 5th grade.

Schools Need Clear Pathways for AI and Digital Infrastructure Education

- High-poverty districts are only half as likely to provide AI training for teachers compared to low-poverty districts
- Digital infrastructure pathways (cloud, cybersecurity, data centers) are expanding fast, but schools lack clear guidance, curriculum, and teacher prep to introduce them early



Hello World: Two Pathways For Impact

① AI Literacy & Readiness Curriculum

- Provides 10–20 hours of instruction (90% AI Literacy, 10% Digital Infrastructure)
- Flexible, plug-and-play modules for any classroom
- Students build virtual worlds while learning how AI works, real-world uses, core infrastructure, emerging careers

② Digital Infrastructure Case Studies

- Provides 5–10 hours of immersive digital infrastructure learning
- Students engage in applied decision-making/problem-solving as they explore site selection, connectivity, operations, community impact, and sustainable system design
- Connects students to the excitement and industry complexity; illuminates relevant career paths

"It's incredibly fulfilling to help create educational pathways for young people, providing them with the skills and confidence to thrive in AI and tech sectors. Our partnership with Hello World lights a spark in these youth and opens up new opportunities for their futures."

Vanessa Eixman
Sr. Director Marketing & Communications



Infrastructure Masons

To expand the hands-on opportunities for students in the program, we've broadened our collaboration with Infrastructure Masons (iMasons), a global nonprofit professional association of which EdgeConneX was a founding member.

With hundreds of representative companies and thousands of members all focused on digital infrastructure, iMasons will enable us to offer more students hands-on learning opportunities – mentorships, internships, and other types of real-world learning along with career pathways.

"At iMasons, we believe that people are at the heart of building the digital future, and education is the gateway to bringing new talent into this incredible industry. Through our collaboration with EdgeConneX and The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA Program, we are equipping young people with the skills, confidence, and opportunities to excel in digital infrastructure, AI, and cloud technology. Together, we are empowering the next generation of leaders while ensuring that innovation and efficiency continue to drive meaningful progress for communities around the world."

Santiago Suinaga

Previous Chief Executive Officer,
Infrastructure Masons



connected to COMMUNITY



Education in Action

“Seeing this program come to life so quickly is a testament to the power of our partnerships with Hello World and The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award USA. We are not just talking about bridging the AI talent gap; we are actively building the pathways that will empower students to become the digital infrastructure leaders of tomorrow. This is a long-term commitment to our communities, ensuring we grow and support talent from the ground up.”

Phillip Marangella

Chief Marketing and Product Officer, EdgeConnex

Greater Atlanta, GA, USA

As part of the development of the new EdgeConneX data center campus in Union City, GA, we worked with Mayor Vince Williams to understand the community's education priorities. Then we made a three-year commitment to sponsor Hello World at elementary, middle, and high schools in the Union City and Fulton County school districts.

With its hands-on computer science, digital literacy, and AI curriculum, our aim in sponsoring the Hello World program is to open doors for under-resourced students, foster lasting skills, and build confidence and interest in technology.

- 7 area schools have enrolled in the program
- Teachers are being trained on the platform
- Instruction set to begin early 2026.
- Several students will have the opportunity to present their work at a regional Student Demo Day with Microsoft April 23-24.

"Union City is proud to partner with EdgeConneX to bring these world-class opportunities to our students. Their Education Program is a direct investment in our community's future, paving the way for our children to thrive in the AI era. It provides [students] with the knowledge and real-world experience to become the next generation of technology leaders, and we are thrilled to see this initiative come to life in Union City and Fulton County schools."

Mayor Vince Williams
Union City, GA

Early Indicators of Success

90% of school leaders reported that implementation required less professional development and fewer planning weeks than expected

95% of students said they wanted to continue working on their projects after the first day of Hello World class



Newark, NJ, USA

In Newark, New Jersey, the EdgeConneX Education Program has received district approval to launch in two specialized schools: Newark Technology High School and Data Science High School.

The Program includes Hello World CS courses in web development, data science, and introductory computer science. Through The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA, students will also access internships and data center tours for real-world exposure.

"Our partnership with EdgeConneX, Hello World CS, and The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA brings Newark students direct access to emerging fields like AI, cybersecurity, and digital infrastructure. By connecting classroom learning with real-world career pathways, we are expanding opportunities for our young people and preparing them to lead in a rapidly changing digital economy."

Roger León

Superintendent, Newark Public Schools

"This collaboration brings powerful hands-on learning to our students and strengthens the academic foundation we've built in data science and technology. With new tools, training, and exposure to the digital infrastructure industry, our students gain invaluable insight into emerging careers and greater confidence in their ability to succeed in them."

Dr. Liana Summey

Principal, Newark School of Data Science & Information Technology

"Preparing our students for the future of work requires more than traditional academics; it demands exposure to real-world career pathways and cutting-edge skills. The collaboration with EdgeConneX, Hello World, and Award USA provides our teachers with invaluable professional development and gives our students a direct line of sight into the digital infrastructure industry. This is how we build a truly ready workforce."

Edwin Reyes

Principal, Newark Technology High School



Greater Austin, TX, USA

As part of the development of the new EdgeConneX data center campus outside of Austin, TX, we worked with the Bastrop County commissioner and school district superintendents to understand the community's education priorities.

We made a commitment to sponsor Hello World across four Bastrop Country school districts, including:

- Bastrop ISD
- McDade ISD
- Elgin ISD
- Smithville ISD

Program implementation beginning in Spring 2026.

Our largest initiative to date, this multi-year Education Program will reach over 13,000 local students through the 2030 school year.

The EdgeConneX Education Program

Spring 2026 Pilot:

- 9 elementary schools, 9 teachers, 2,000 students
- 4 middle schools, 4-6 teachers, 1,750 students

Remaining 4 Years:

- 9 elementary schools, 9 teachers, 5,000 students
- 4 middle schools, 4-6 teachers, 3,500 students



HYPERLOCAL TO HYPERSCALE DATA CENTERS

EdgeConneX builds and operates highly proximate, high-powered data centers tailored to your optimal size, density and location worldwide.

connected to COMMUNITY



What's Next

We are actively working with our partners to expand the Education Program's reach into new communities around the world, including in Europe and Asia-Pacific. Additionally, working with Infrastructure Masons, we intend to collaborate with other data center operators and digital infrastructure providers to further scale the program.



connected to
COMMUNITY

 edgeconnex®