



Lenovo
Education

AI Is Already on Your Campus. Is Your Fleet Ready?

Turning AI Ambition into Scalable Impact

A thought leadership brief for four-year and teaching institutions and research universities



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From AI Ambition to AI Readiness

Higher education is moving decisively on AI. Across classrooms, research, and administration, the ambition is real and the investment is following it. Yet few institutions would say they have AI fully resolved — the distance between ambition and readiness is where the difficulty lies. The question that matters is whether your fleet is ready to deliver on the commitment you've made.

That readiness is determined at the device. AI workloads execute on the endpoint in front of the student, the faculty member, and the researcher — not solely in the cloud. Today 94% of higher-education staff and faculty have used AI tools for work, yet more than half (56%) turn to tools their institution never provided.¹ The gap remains invisible until deployment begins, and then it appears in every setting where the device cannot keep pace.

¹ Jenay Robert, The Impact of AI on Work in Higher Education, EDUCAUSE, 2026.





A Fleet Assembled Over Time

Most campus fleets were not designed, they were accumulated — purchased department by department, lab by lab, cycle by cycle, each under the standard that made sense at the time. The result is an environment where configurations, security baselines, and compute capability vary from one device to the next. An inconsistent fleet cannot be managed consistently, and every new initiative inherits that variance.

AI is what brings that variance into full view. The stakes rise with the workload: the heavier the compute and the more sensitive the data, the more that inconsistency costs you. A workstation running iterative modeling and a system in a faculty office now answer to the same AI ambition and the same security mandate. And a device the IT team cannot see is one it cannot secure, refresh, or ready for what is coming.

MOST DEVICES, UNSEEN
69%

of universities estimate that the majority of devices on their networks are not visible to their IT teams.²

Standardization Is How Readiness Scales

The answer is not tighter oversight — it is standardization. A standardized, AI-ready fleet makes readiness a property of the platform itself, present in every device by design. The campuses moving fastest understood this early. They made a foundational platform decision. That single decision is what makes everything downstream easier to execute: a fleet managed once, secured consistently, and budgeted predictably. With that settled, the question is no longer whether the campus is ready, but how far it can go.

What a Standardized Platform Delivers

AI Readiness, Built In

Every device enters the fleet already equipped for AI — compute, memory, and NPU capacity specified at the hardware layer, ready before the workload arrives, from the classroom to the research bench. Lenovo ThinkPad and ThinkCentre with AMD Ryzen™ AI PRO processors put on-device AI into every system by default, so deployment never begins with a hardware audit.

One Fleet, Managed as One

A standardized fleet is managed once: one imaging process, one lifecycle across every building, turning a collection of individual problems into a single, consistent fleet. Lenovo Device Orchestration and TruScale DaaS hold that model at scale — and organizations standardizing on one endpoint platform see roughly 23% lower IT support costs and 18% fewer device failures over five years.³

³ IDC InfoBrief, The Business Value of Device Standardization, 2022.



What a Standardized Platform Delivers

Security by Architecture

Consistent protection only holds when every device carries the same baseline — built into the silicon, below the OS, present by default no matter when a device was deployed. Across education, exploited vulnerabilities appeared in 77% of hacking-related breaches over the past year, the kind of exposure a uniform hardware defense is built to close.⁴ AMD Ryzen™ PRO processors and Lenovo ThinkShield establish that baseline across the fleet.

Cost That Forecasts, Not Surprises

Fragmented fleets generate the spend no one plans for — unplanned replacements, uneven failure rates, devices aging out on different schedules. A standardized platform replaces that with a forecast: long lifecycles, performance-per-watt efficiency, and the option to move device spend off the capital budget entirely. Lenovo TruScale DaaS converts it into a predictable monthly cost, so finance stops absorbing the gap.

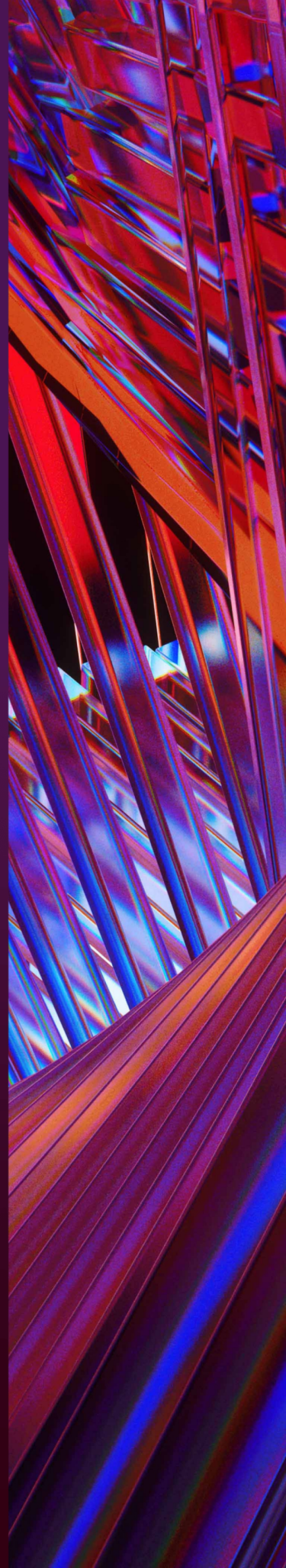
For Four-Year & Teaching Institutions

An AI teaching tool only delivers on its promise when it runs cleanly in the room, on the device in front of the student. When the hardware lags, faculty quietly stop using the tools the institution invested in, and the classroom AI strategy stalls regardless of how sound it was. A consistent, AI-ready fleet turns that strategy into everyday practice across every lecture hall and lab, and keeps the FERPA-protected student data moving through those tools defensible on every device it touches.

For Research Universities

Researchers running iterative AI and simulation workloads should not have to wait on a shared cluster or meter cloud time to do their work. A workstation built for those workloads puts dedicated compute at the desk, so a model runs when the researcher is ready rather than when the queue clears. Lenovo ThinkStation with AMD Ryzen™ AI PRO processors is built for exactly that. That same silicon-level protection holds the CMMC and NIST 800-171 posture that funded research depends on, and TruScale billing that flexes with grant cycles keeps device spend aligned to how research is funded.

⁴ Verizon, 2025 Data Breach Investigations Report, education sector.



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The Right Technology Partner Makes the Difference

The institutions turning AI ambition into everyday capability made a deliberate choice. They built on a solid foundation and let everything else follow. The right technology partner understands higher education, and brings that same discipline to the classroom, the lab, and research.

Talk to yours about **Lenovo** and **AMD** solutions for higher education, and what your campus can deliver when readiness is built in from the start.



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