

32.9% Gap in Educational Support Growth — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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Fastest vs. Slowest U.S. Metro Growth in AI-Driven Education Services

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THE DATA

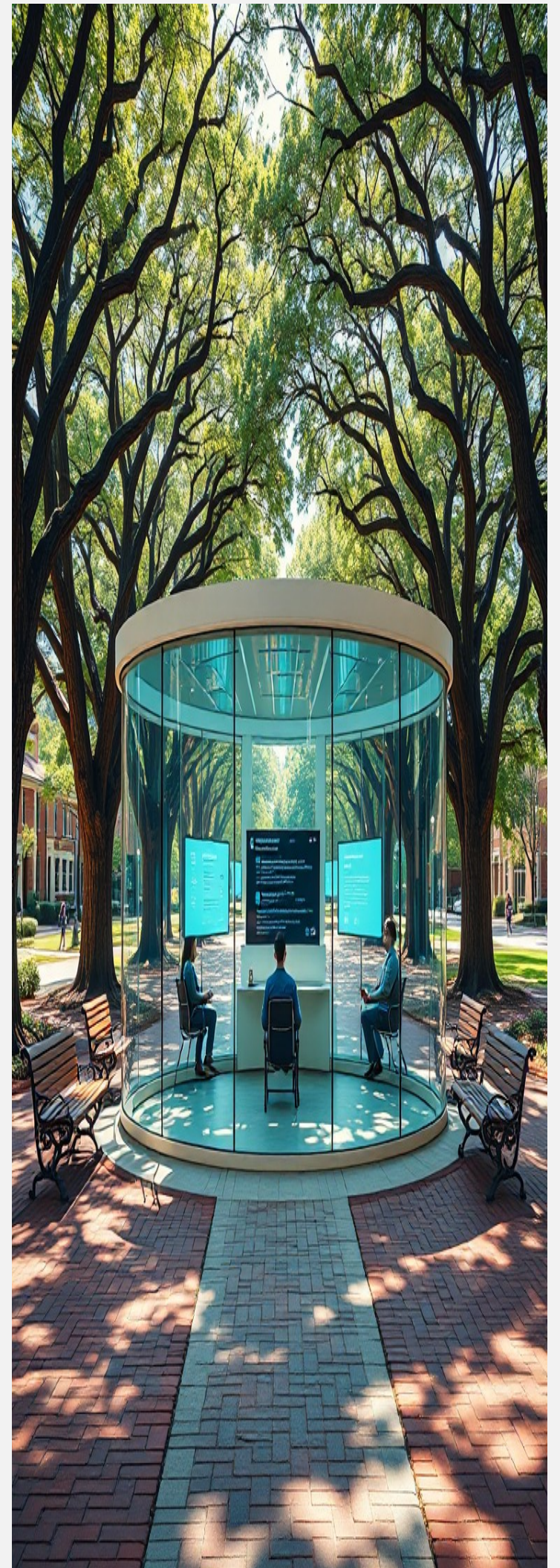
32.9%

Spread Between the Fastest and Slowest Growth in Educational Support Providers (2022)

This gap measures the difference in growth rates of educational support services (NAICS 611710) between the top and bottom metros in the U.S.

The 32.9% spread between Albuquerque, NM and Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI reveals a stark divergence in where educational infrastructure is expanding — not just in enrollment or faculty, but in support ecosystems. This includes tutoring, AI-powered learning platforms, mental health resources, and academic tech integration. The disparity suggests that some regions are becoming AI-education hubs while others are falling behind, despite similar institutional presence.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2019 and 2022, NAICS 611710 (Educational support services) • ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-16-ai-higher-ed-dive-611710-msa>



01

AI Is Rewiring Where Support Grows

This shift means that institutions with strong AI integration — even non-elite ones — are gaining disproportionate influence. The real competitive edge isn't in faculty prestige anymore, but in the speed and scale of deploying support systems powered by machine learning and predictive analytics.

02

Growth Is a Proxy for AI Maturity

Detroit's low growth reflects a lag in integrating AI into the student support lifecycle. Meanwhile, Albuquerque's rise shows that even smaller metros can lead if they treat AI as a core infrastructure layer — not a side project. The future of higher education won't be decided by the best research, but by the most agile support networks.



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