

Gareth Manning

Co-founder and Chief Product & Learning Officer, Plus One Learning

gareth@plusonelearning.com
plusonelearning.com
garethmanning.com
LinkedIn profile
github.com/GarethManning

Budapest, Hungary
Citizen of Canada, Ireland and the UK

RECOGNITION

World's Best School Prizes, 2026

REAL School named Top 10 for Environmental Action; Dream-to-Reality was central to the entry.

Invited talk, The Purpose Hub, 2024

On cultivating pro-planetary purpose; convened by Heather Malin, former Director, Stanford Center on Adolescence.

NSDA Taiwan Coach of the Year, 2018

Edwin Parr Teacher Award

Won at division level (Peace River School Division, Alberta); provincial nominee.

Kathy Bickmore Peacemaking Education Award, 2009

OISE, University of Toronto.

Twenty years designing how children learn, as a teacher, department chair, curriculum designer and co-principal. Now building the software, shipping through AI coding agents.

Plus One's working app and its methodology architecture were built this way.

Plus One Learning

Jul 2026 – now

Co-founder, Chief Product & Learning Officer

AI workspace for special educators, specialists and paraeducators. Co-founded with Ivana Pignatelli, CEO.

- One learning loop (plan, teach, check, adjust) on one shared learner record, replacing the four disconnected tools educators juggle today: IEP software, intervention programmes, spreadsheets and AI chat.
- Lead product, architecture and methodology. Designed the **engine-and-cartridge model**: each subject's teaching knowledge and each place's standards and laws load as separate packages; 59 official standards sets mapped.
- **Built the working app end to end in three months, with no engineering team**: document upload and IEP summary, support plan, session preparation, and progress judgements that feed back into the plan. **Next: Minnesota pilot**
- Led the compliance review against a US district data-privacy agreement and a 41-item vendor security checklist. Privacy-first: no training on child data; families can see, take and delete it.

Open source

Mar 2026 – now

Education Agent Skills

Creator and maintainer · github.com/GarethManning/education-agent-skills

- Wrote **165 evidence-based skills across 20 domains** that give AI agents a skilled teacher's judgement in feedback, questioning, scaffolding and assessment; each names its research and states its limits.
- **847 GitHub stars and 122 forks** in seven months. Runs in Claude, OpenAI Codex and Hermes, with chainable skills and a hosted MCP server.

Other products

2026

Strive · striveapp.io

Habit and agency app for schools: students build real wellbeing habits with classmates. Live; piloted with students at REAL School.

2026

Hippo · hippoapp.io

Turns the lesson a teacher already taught into reviewed flashcards and live class quizzes.

2026

Lyceum

Research corpus with claim-level search, used to ground Plus One's methods.

OTHER WORK

Global Impact Diploma, 2024

Core design team: competency framework and assessment approach for an international diploma; led workshops. The diploma won the AAIE Innovation Award 2026.

WRITING AND MEDIA

All Thoughts Subject to Change

Substack on AI in education and competency-based learning.

UNESCO MGIEP *The Blue Dot*

Guest editor, Issue 13: Reimagining Education.

World Teacher Podcast

Creator and host, 2020–21.

EDUCATION

M.Ed. Curriculum Studies & Teacher Development

OISE, University of Toronto. Comparative, International and Development Education.

B.Ed. History & Politics

OISE, University of Toronto.

Hon. B.A. History & Political Science

University of Toronto.

Ontario Certified Teacher

Special Education Part 1

ESL Part 1 IB DP History

ISTE/ASCD Instructional Leader

School leadership and design

Aug 2022 –
Jun 2026

REAL School Budapest

Progressive K–8 school in Budapest, Hungary

Co-Principal and Lead Designer

Co-Designer, Curriculum

Lead Educator and PBL Designer

Nov 2024 – Jun 2026

2023 – 2024

2022 – 2023

- **Designed and wrote a complete curriculum and assessment system for kindergarten to Grade 12**, implemented across the school's K–8 years: six commitments (Academics, Nature, Smart technology, Wellbeing, Entrepreneurship, Regeneration), competencies built on the EU GreenComp, EntreComp, DigComp and LifeComp frameworks and the OECD Learning Compass 2030, with progressions, learning targets, rubrics and family reports for every year group.
- **Created Dream-to-Reality, a K–8 programme in regenerative entrepreneurship**: six developmental stages, two project processes, a school-wide impact scale, and a year-long final project in which 13–14-year-olds run their own project in the city.
- **Built a whole-school wellbeing framework** (7 competencies, 107 assessment criteria) aligned with England's RSHE, the Curriculum for Wales and CASEL; taught the class and piloted it.
- **Put AI to work across the school**: ran assessment through Headrush, built Claude Projects and custom GPTs so teachers plan and assess with AI that knows the curriculum, and introduced AI-assisted report cards that **halved report-writing time**. Trained all staff in PBL, assessment and practical AI.

International schools

Jul 2021 –
May 2022

Faculty, Social Studies and Humanities

Class Afloat · a school aboard a tall ship, two Atlantic crossings

Taught five social-science subjects at sea; guided student regeneration projects and fieldwork in 10+ port countries; led the Student Advisory Council.

Jul 2018 –
Jun 2021

Educator

THINK Global School · nomadic high school, a new country each term

Designed projects with community partners in seven countries.

Created the **Excellence Table** self- and peer-assessment framework, adopted school-wide.

Aug 2013 –
Jun 2018

Department Chair, Social Studies

Pacific American School, Taiwan

Introduced AP Capstone, co-led school-wide Design Thinking, designed the full-year Innovator's Space course, and built the debate programme from scratch.

Earlier

2005 –
2013

Middle school teacher, Menno Simons Community School, Alberta ·
ESL and outdoor-learning teacher, Camp Wynchemna, Calgary ·
Assistant Language Teacher across 11 schools, JET Programme, Japan