



The 2026 AEO Readiness Checklist Survival Guide for the Answer Engine Revolution

From "Search" to "Answers" Welcome to the new era of search. Google is no longer just a library; it is an Answer Engine.

AI tools (like ChatGPT, Gemini, and Search Generative Experience) don't just look for keywords—they look for trust, structure, and direct answers.

Use this checklist to audit your website for 2026. If you can't check at least 8 of these boxes, your business is at risk of losing visibility this year.

Technical Structure (The Code)

Schema Markup is Implemented My site uses JSON-LD structured data to tell AI exactly who we are, what we sell, and where we are located.

Mobile Load Speed < 2.5 Seconds: My site loads instantly on 4G networks. (AI penalizes slow sites because they provide a bad "answer" experience).

No "Orphan" Pages: Every page on my site is linked to from another page, making it easy for AI crawlers to map my content.

Content & Context (The Words)

Direct Answer Formatting: My service pages answer "What is [Service]?" in the first paragraph using clear, plain English (no fluff).

The "People Also Ask" Strategy: My content includes FAQ sections that mirror the exact questions people type into Google.

Entity-Based Content: We talk about specific concepts (e.g., "Water Heater Repair in Madison") rather than generic keywords (e.g., "Plumbing").

Authority & Trust (The Proof)

Author/Creator Transparency: My blog posts and articles list a real author with credentials (essential for E-E-A-T scores).

Review Freshness: We have received and replied to a customer review within the last 30 days. (Active businesses are prioritized by AI).

Consistent N.A.P.: Our Name, Address, and Phone number are identical across Google, Bing, Facebook, and Yelp.

The "INCLUDE" Factor (The Lagraphia Difference)

ADA Compliance: My images have Alt Text and my colors have high contrast. (Accessibility is a top ranking signal for AI because it helps machines "read" images).

Diverse Imagery: My visual content reflects the community we serve, signaling relevance to a broader audience.

Score Yourself

0-4 Checks

Invisible. Your site is stuck in the past. You are likely losing leads to AI-optimized competitors right now.

5-7 Checks

Visible but Vulnerable. You rank today, but the next algorithm update could erase your traffic.

8-10 Checks

2026 Ready. You are positioned to dominate the new search landscape.

Don't Want to Fix This Manually? We Built a System That Does It For You.

You shouldn't have to become an AI expert to run your business. That's why we built the Lagraphia Growth System™. We don't just build websites; we build AI-Structured Digital Ecosystems. Every Growth System package includes

AEO-First Architecture

Sites built to be cited by ChatGPT and Google

Inclusive Design

ADA compliance baked in, not bolted on.

Automated Reviews

Keep your "Trust Signal" fresh without lifting a finger.

Live Data Dashboard

See exactly how your growth is happening.

Inclusive

Get Your Free Marketing Assessment

Let us scan your site and tell you exactly where you stand. It takes 60 seconds to start.

[Start My Assessment](#)