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# Four States' Guiding Principles for AI in Education

# AI and K-12 Education

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is playing an increasingly important role in the world of K-12 education. AI presents many positive benefits for educators, such as providing personalized learning experiences, analyzing student data for insights, and automating routine tasks. However, integrating AI into schools also brings valid concerns, such as data privacy and security, as well as the potential for AI systems to perpetuate biases or inequalities in the learning process.

Navigating this landscape can be challenging for school and district leaders, who are starting to seek guidance on integrating AI into the classroom. Analysis from the Center on Reinventing Public Education at Arizona State University revealed that **school and district administrators "would like more state guidance on using generative AI ethically and responsibly."** Yet only six states have published formal guidance to school districts regarding the use of AI in schools.

Districts developing guidance for use of AI may be facing a range of challenges. AI is a complex topic with rapidly changing educational, business, legal, and ethical implications—provoking loads of anxieties and no clear consensus.

To help, we've unpacked some key insights and guiding principles from several states who have developed formal guidance: California, Oregon, Washington, and West Virginia. These are brief summaries of the key takeaways—while a good starting point, we suggest reading the complete document for a fuller picture of state-specific guidance. We've also included Panorama's core principles for AI.

Whether your district is just starting on your AI journey, or well on your way to developing guiding principles, these key takeaways can support your work. Consider sharing these key takeaways with school and district teams, or incorporating them into conversations about the potential of AI in your district.

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# 1. California Department of Education

**Artificial Intelligence in California: Learning with AI**

The California Department of Education (CDE) released their AI guidance in September 2023. It acknowledges the pros and cons of AI in the classroom, such as the presence of bias and social impacts of AI. The report also provides ways AI can be utilized in schools, including:

- Planning and workflow support
- Accessibility and personalization
- College and career readiness
- Addressing the digital use divide

Additionally, the CDE provides guidance that local education agencies can use to evaluate the safety of potential AI systems:

**1. Data Privacy Compliance:**
- Legal Framework: Ensure that the AI system complies with federal and state data privacy laws, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).
- Data Handling: Review how the AI system collects, stores, and manages student data. Ensure it adheres to privacy protocols and encryption standards.
- Data Ownership: Clarify who owns the data generated or processed by the AI system and establish rights and responsibilities regarding data access and sharing.

**2. Security Measures:**
- Data Security: Assess the AI system's security measures, including encryption, authentication, and authorization protocols, to safeguard against data breaches and cyber threats.
- Access Control: Verify that the AI system has robust access controls to restrict data access to authorized personnel only.

**3. Transparency:**
- Algorithm Transparency: Seek clarity on how the AI system's algorithms make decisions and whether the vendor can provide insights into the system's decision-making processes.

**5. Data Retention:**
- Data Retention: Determine how long the AI system retains student data and whether it aligns with your district's data retention policies.

**6. Accessibility and Inclusivity:**
- Universal Design: Confirm that the AI system adheres to universal design principles, making it accessible to all students, including those with disabilities.

**7. Educational Partner Involvement:**
- Community Engagement: Involve parents, students, educators, and administrators in the evaluation process to gather their input and address their concerns.

**8. Continuous Monitoring:**
- Ongoing Assessment: Establish procedures for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the AI system's compliance with the terms of use and data privacy standards.

# 2. Oregon Department of Education

**Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in K-12 Classrooms**

In this resource, the Oregon Department of Education provides a historical context of AI, noting that "various forms of AI have been integrated into classrooms and our everyday lives for decades." The report, therefore, provides practical guidance for districts to consider when developing AI policies. For example, one section outlines the Oregon Student Information Protection Act's requirements that must be met when using digital platforms of any kind—including AI platforms.

The report also provides strategies for the use of generative AI in classrooms, such as:

**Learning Design:**
It's vital to underscore that teachers remain central to the creation of lessons and materials. However, generative AI can offer valuable aid to educators in the initial stages of development. Strategies could include:

- Developing lesson plans to support student learning
- Lessening the burden of creating individualized instructional materials for students
- Supporting teachers in the beginning stages of curriculum development
- Supporting students with disabilities by streamlining content and scaffolding learning materials

**Teaching Tool:**
Generative AI can serve as a teaching tool by creating content such as quizzes, exercises, and educational materials tailored to individual student needs and learning styles. It can also generate simulations and interactive experiences that help students grasp complex concepts more effectively. However, it's important to ground this form of instruction in "explicit policies about when it is appropriate to use generative AI." Additionally, students should be taught digital literacy skills when they begin to interact with AI in this way.

**Instructional Support:**
The report notes that "Generative AI can be used by teachers to efficiently find instructional resources on the basis of specific topic areas as well as pedagogical approaches to provide individualized instruction. This includes using a program like ChatGPT to differentiate instructional resources by student grade level."

## Introduce students to digital literacy skills with these 5 strategies
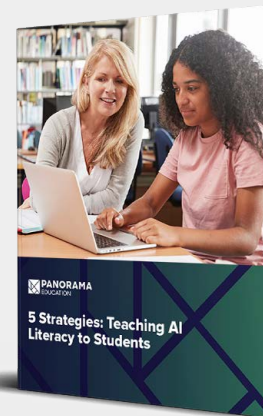
**5 AI Literacy Strategies**

**Download Here**

5 Strategies: Teaching AI Literacy to Students

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**Virtual Assistant:**
One of the key benefits of AI in the classroom is its ability to automate certain tasks for teachers and staff. In this regard, generative AI can serve as a "virtual research assistant." This can create additional time for educators to:

- Build relationships with their students
- Engage in direct and small group instruction
- Provide feedback on assignments

**Student Support and Guidance:**
The ability to use AI in research and discovery is a key skill for students, and a central aspect of digital literacy. Educators should prioritize developing these AI-supported research skills, such as asking strong questions and learning how to fact-check AI-generated information. Additionally, older students can be encouraged to use AI for research on college and career planning.

**Future Career Options:**
It's likely that students will continue to use AI beyond their K-12 education and in their future careers. Incorporating both computer science and AI literacy into curriculum will be crucial in "supporting students in learning about AI and using it responsibly, ethically, and productively."

# 3. Washington Office of Superintendent Public Instruction

## Human-Centered AI: Guidance for K-12 Public Schools

The state of Washington's AI guidance emphasizes a human-centered approach. The report opens with the assertion that:

*"In K–12 education, uses of AI should always start with human inquiry and always end with human reflection, human insight, and human empowerment. This model, abbreviated as "Human AI Human" or "H AI H" offers pathways for educators, school district administrators, and students to engage with AI responsibly, ethically, and safely."*

Washington's guidance asserts that educational leaders can lean into this human-centered approach in their AI policy by:

- Developing students' AI literacy by helping them understand the concepts, applications, and implications of AI in various domains, and empowering them to use AI as a tool for learning and problem-solving.

- Ensuring ethical, equitable, and safe use of AI by protecting the privacy and security of data, addressing potential biases and harms, and promoting digital citizenship and responsibility.

- Providing professional development and support for educators by helping them integrate AI into their pedagogy, curriculum, and assessment, and by facilitating their collaboration and innovation with AI.

- Applying human-centered design principles to the development and implementation of AI solutions, such as involving stakeholders in the design process, testing and iterating the solutions, and evaluating the impact and outcomes.

- Aligning AI solutions with the best practices and principles of learning, such as supporting learner agency, fostering collaboration, enhancing feedback, and promoting critical thinking.

The report also provides language and suggestions for developing human-centered AI policies, such as a responsible use policy and AI inquiry and output review.

## 4. West Virginia Department of Education
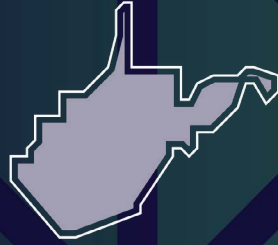
**[Guidance, Considerations, & Intentions for the Use of Artificial Intelligence in West Virginia Schools](#)**

This January 2024 report provides an overview of artificial intelligence, guiding principles for AI use by educators, and guiding principles for school and district use of AI. Guidelines for school and district use of artificial intelligence include:

- **We (schools and districts) can use AI to help all of our students achieve their educational goals.** If we choose to use AI, we will use AI to help us reach our school goals, including improving student learning, teacher effectiveness, and improving school operations. We will aim to make AI resources universally accessible, focusing especially on bridging the digital divide among students and staff. We are committed to evaluating AI tools for biases and ethical concerns, ensuring they effectively serve our educational community.

- **We reaffirm adherence to existing policies and regulations.** AI is one of many technologies that may be used in West Virginia schools, and its use will align with existing policies and regulations to protect student privacy, ensure accessibility to those with disabilities, and protect against harmful content. We will not share personally identifiable information with consumer-based AI systems. We will thoroughly evaluate existing and future technologies and address any gaps in compliance that might arise.

- **We will proactively educate our staff and students about AI.** Promoting AI literacy among students and staff is central to addressing the risks of AI use and teaches critical skills for students' futures. Students and staff will be given support to develop their AI literacy, which includes how to use AI, when to use it, and how it works, including foundational concepts of computer science and other disciplines. We will support teachers in adapting instruction in a context where some or all students have access to generative AI tools.

- **We will explore the opportunities of AI and address the risks.** In continuing to guide our schools, we will work to realize the benefits of AI in education, address risks associated with using AI, and evaluate if and when to use AI tools, paying special attention to misinformation and bias.

- **We will use AI to advance a culture of academic integrity.** Honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility continue to be expectations for both students and teachers. Students should be truthful in giving credit to sources and tools, and be honest in presenting work that is genuinely their own for evaluation and feedback.

- **We will maintain student and teacher agency when using AI tools.** AI tools can provide recommendations or enhance decision-making, but staff and students will serve as "critical consumers" of AI and lead any organizational and academic decisions and changes. When AI is employed for decision-making, we understand that humans, and not the AI, will be responsible and accountable for pedagogical or decision-making processes.

- **We will commit to auditing, monitoring, and evaluating our school's use of AI.** Understanding that AI technologies are evolving rapidly, we commit to frequent and regular reviews and updates of our policies, procedures, and practices.

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# 4. Panorama Education

## AI That Puts Students and Educators First

At Panorama, the following core principles guide our approach, ensuring student and educator needs are always at the forefront of our AI development:

**Privacy and Data Security**
Data protection is our priority, and Panorama AI safeguards student information at every step.

**Equitable and Ethical AI**
The AI models we use have deep commitment to guard against bias and discrimination.

**Research-Backed Alignment**
Panorama AI enhances tools that are backed by extensive research and proven effective.

**Transparency and Explainability**
To reduce confusion about AI, we provide clear explanations of our tools through open dialogue with users.

**Empowering Educators to Drive Action**
Panorama AI caters to diverse learning styles, abilities, and cultures to ensure accessibility for all.

**Focus On Student Impact**
Panorama AI aims to improve educational outcomes and support districts, schools, educators, students, and families.

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Striking the right balance with your student supports can be challenging when there are so many competing factors to consider on any given day.

Panorama AI is your everyday assistant for gathering insights and boosting the effectiveness of your interventions. Now, you can achieve more in less time and have greater confidence that your efforts will positively impact your community.

Ready to transform how you use data in your schools? Request a demo of Panorama's AI Solutions.

**Request a Demo**

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