

## What is AI, and Why Is Everyone Talking About It?

**AI means “Artificial Intelligence.” AI is created when people teach machines to think, solve problems, and make decisions. These are things only people could do previously.**

- ▶ AI can be useful and fun. AI can help us do tasks more easily and efficiently.
- ▶ But just like any tool – we need to be smart when we use it.
- ▶ We also need to help our children understand how AI will affect their learning.

**People teach machines by giving them a lot of information and repeated opportunities to practice. This is similar to how humans learn.**

- ▶ For example, machines can learn to tell the difference between cats and dogs by looking at masses of images of cats and dogs to build an understanding of their different characteristics.

**AI is becoming a part of our daily lives. People use AI to find information and play games. In fact, you are likely using AI already.**

- ▶ Sometimes when we use the Internet, ads pop up for things we have searched for when we were previously online. AI makes that happen.
- ▶ Many people use APPs with fun filters that add features to photos, like rabbit ears, horns, crazy wigs, etc. That is AI at work.
- ▶ Sometimes AI is used to create written or audio materials we use at home or at work.

**Here are a few things you might want to know about how AI is available and used in schools – and things we should all consider to use AI effectively in our lives outside of school.**

## AI may be used in your child's learning.

- ▶ AI is becoming more and more common, and it may be used in your child's classroom. What AI tools are used and how they are used will differ, depending on each teacher's practices.
- ▶ Some students who have exceptionalities may use different kinds of AI to help them access information and learning activities.
- ▶ All students may be allowed to use AI to find information or create materials.

## It is always helpful to be thoughtful and ask questions about changes in technology.

- ▶ If you want to know more about AI and how it is being used in your child's school, you can ask the principal or teacher. It is their job to help you understand the tools your child is using to learn.
- ▶ Schools and families can work together to help students learn skills and become prepared to use new technologies effectively, safely, and responsibly.

## Schools and families can work together to teach students the following lessons about AI.

### Stay Safe

- ▶ Students should never share personal information when they are using AI, the Internet or an APP.
- ▶ It is useful to tell children and teens over and over: "if you are asked to share private information when using AI, stop! Then let your teacher, a parent, or another adult know."
- ▶ It is important to understand that AI can change pictures, videos, audio recordings, and words that are shared online. Everyone needs to think very carefully about what information and images they are sharing. AI might use your child's information and images in ways that could be embarrassing or harmful.

### Ask For Help

- ▶ If students ever feel confused or uncomfortable using AI, they should stop and ask the teacher or another adult for help.
- ▶ Families can encourage children and teens to ask questions if something does not seem right.

### Learn More

- ▶ Learning more about AI can help everyone use it more effectively.
- ▶ Students and families can build their awareness of what AI can and cannot do, so students can match the right AI to their needs.
- ▶ Knowing how AI works will also help all of us understand its biases and limitations.
  - AI is based on limited data and the information may not be current.
  - The information used to “teach AI” may not represent everyone, and so the products created by AI may be unfair. AI could generate stereotypes or racist materials. Students and families should watch for these problems.

### Learn Using AI, Not From AI

- ▶ AI is a tool. It is like a pencil, a calculator, or other materials and resources we all use regularly.
- ▶ AI can support learning and help students complete a variety of tasks, but students always need to think and learn themselves in order to grow and develop.
- ▶ AI should complement students’ thoughts and creativity. Children and teens should be encouraged to add their own ideas when they are using AI.

### Use Other Tools, Too

- ▶ Reading books, having conversations, working with others, doing cultural activities, being active or artistic, and coming up with our own ideas are just as important as AI.
- ▶ Teachers and families can help children and teens explore and use different sources of information, and participate in a variety of activities to learn new things.

### Use AI Appropriately

- ▶ If students use AI-generated content or materials, it is important that they do not misrepresent it as their own work.
- ▶ Families can remind their children and teens to credit AI tools properly when they have used AI to complete assignments and other schoolwork.

### Be Careful!

- ▶ We all need to remember that AI sometimes makes mistakes. It can give incorrect answers, wrong information, or make things that don’t work properly.
- ▶ Families can help schools teach students to think for themselves. Students should critically evaluate AI-generated content. They can double-check information generated using AI by looking at other sources.
- ▶ All students need to use good judgment and ask an adult if they think something is not right.

