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The Future Is Now: What School Boards Must Do to Get AI Right

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What is AI?

”Artificial Intelligence (AI) is usually defined as a computer’s ability to perform human-like tasks e.g. perception, reasoning, learning, etc.”

Machine Learning (ML) is a subset of AI and represents the way computers can learn how to do something without explicit instructions.

-Deciphering AI’s Promises and Perils to Ensure Value in Workers’ Compensation Analytics by Frank Huang, June 20, 2023

Why Are We Here? ChatGPT Statistics



- ChatGPT was released on November 30, 2022. It surpassed 1 million users in 5 days.
- In June 2024 it had over 180.5 million users. It now has 800 million weekly active users.
- ChatGPT hit 1 billion users in May, faster than any app in history, faster than TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and Google Maps.

Competitors of OpenAI

- Perplexity AI
- Microsoft Bing - Copilot
- Google Gemini
- Anthropic: Claude (Opus, Sonnet & Haiku models)
- Google Notebook LM
- Superhuman



Why AI Policy Matters



- AI is already being used widely in schools.
- Proactive policy protects students and staff.
- Leadership and governance shape successful adoption.
- Training is key for successful AI policy implementation.

District-wide Leadership

- AI impacts instruction and operations.
- Board Members and Superintendents set the tone; their leadership is essential.
- District staff wear many hats and one more will be a challenge.



Create an AI Task Force

- Build shared understanding of AI tools and risks.
- Guide responsible implementation and decision-making.
- Coordinate decision-making across departments.
- Continuously evaluate new products and risks. (Every six months a new product can replace an older one and for half the price.)

Lessons from the Past



- Remember the District-wide response to the COVID pandemic.
- Many Districts had task forces and reacted in real time.

Who Should Be Involved

- Curriculum + Instruction
- IT & Security
- Finance + Procurement
- HR, Facilities, Transportation, Teachers, Parents, Legal Counsel, Students



Task Force Targets



Provide guidelines for safe AI use for:

- Teachers,
- Administrators,
- Staff, and
- Students.

Key Deliverables

- District AI implementation roadmap
- Product vetting + procurement system
- Policies that define safe and effective uses
- Policy revisions as technology evolves



Professional Development Matters



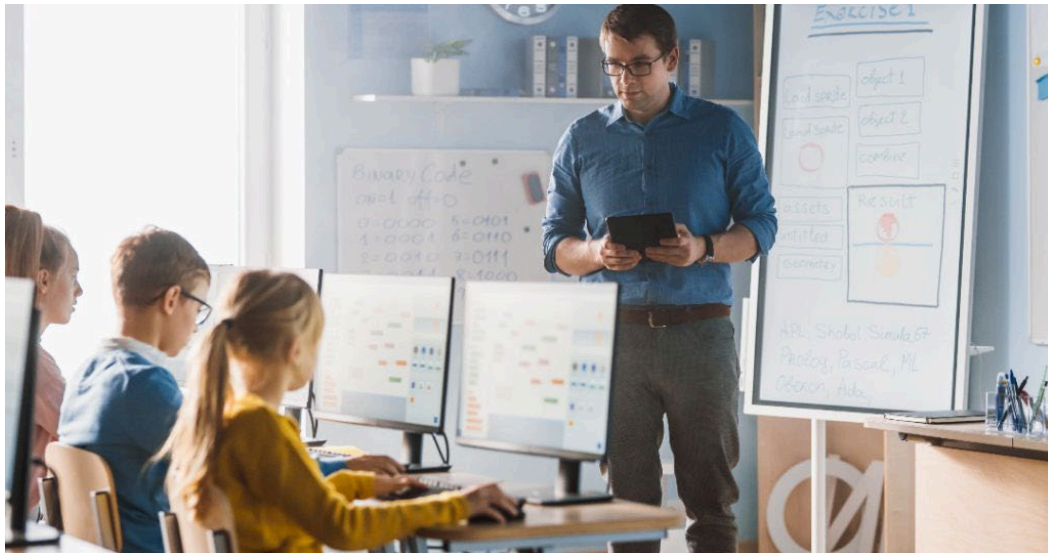
- AI reduces lesson planning and administrative workload.
- Administrators need AI literacy to oversee implementation.
- IT must ensure cybersecurity and FERPA compliance.

Responsible Implementation

- Policy adoption is only the beginning.
- Test for data privacy and bias.
- Closed data systems preferred for protected information.
- Most free products are open and will train on the data entered.



Budget & Sustainability



- Start small with pilot programs.
- Evaluate time savings and efficiency gains.
- Reinvest savings into instructional improvement.
- Look to universities for AI programs and training opportunities.

After Policy Comes Practice

- Training and oversight make policy real.
- Prefer closed data systems for FERPA compliance
- ChatGPT 5.5 can save time if used correctly.



Dos & Don'ts



- **DO:** Pilot programs, short-term contracts, transparency
- **DON'T:** Rush adoption, ignore privacy, lock into multi-year deals
- AI should empower educators, not replace them.
- Announce the use of AI cameras for security.

Addressing Concerns

- Risk comes from misuse, not from use with oversight.
- AI reduces teacher workload rather than adding to it.
- Adoption can be gradual and strategic.
- The challenge is how to balance students' AI needs.



Closing

- AI is a permanent shift in educational operations, not a trend.
- Districts must lead strategically, not reactively.
- The goal is to equip students and educators for the future.
- The future is now!

Disclaimer

The information provided during this presentation is not intended for legal advice. The presentation, and any handouts which may accompany it, provide general information on this topic and answers to common questions about this issue. Please consult an attorney to assure that this information, and your interpretation of it, is appropriate to your particular situation.

Thank you!



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