

AI in Education

5 guides to AI in school — using it wisely, AI literacy, integrity, privacy & safety — for families & educators.

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Understanding AI in School

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AI in the Classroom

WHAT IT IS

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly entering classrooms — from AI tutors and writing feedback to tools that support students with disabilities. It brings real opportunities and real questions. This guide gives a balanced, plain-English picture so families can stay informed. (For a deep dive, see the K12 Academics State of AI in...

HOW IT WORKS

- ✓ **Where AI shows up** — Tutoring and practice tools, writing and math feedback, accessibility supports, language help, and behind-the-scenes tasks for teachers.
- ✓ **Who's using it** — Students, teachers, and schools — often with new policies still being written.
- ✓ **How fast it's moving** — Very — tools and school rules are changing constantly, so this is a moving target.

WHY IT MATTERS

- ✓ **Personalized support** — AI can adapt to a student's level and give instant feedback
- ✓ **Accessibility** — Text-to-speech, translation, and other supports can help many learners
- ✓ **Teacher time** — AI can help with routine tasks, freeing teachers for students
- ✓ **Practice & tutoring** — On-demand help outside class hours



AT A GLANCE

What	AI tools used in teaching & le...
Examples	Tutoring, feedback, accessibl...
Opportunities	Personalized help & support
Concerns	Accuracy, privacy, over-rellan...
Schools	Setting policies (they vary)
Families	Stay informed & involved

EXAMPLES

- ✓ **Accuracy** — AI can be confidently wrong — it needs a human check
- ✓ **Privacy** — Tools collect data — review what's shared (see our AI privacy guide)
- ✓ **Over-reliance** — Using AI to shortcut thinking can undercut learning
- ✓ **Equity** — Access to tools and guidance isn't equal for every student
- ✓ **Academic integrity** — When is AI use help vs cheating? (see our integrity guide)

TIPS

- ✓ **Ask about your school's AI policy** — Rules vary and are evolving
- ✓ **Talk with your child about AI** — How they use it, and using it honestly and wisely
- ✓ **Focus on learning, not shortcuts** — AI should support thinking, not replace it
- ✓ **Mind privacy** — Check what tools collect (our privacy guide helps)
- ✓ **Stay curious together** — AI literacy is a skill for the whole family

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AI Literacy

WHAT IT IS

AI literacy is the ability to understand what AI is, use it wisely, and think critically about what it produces. It's quickly becoming an essential skill — for students and families. You don't need to be technical; you need to be thoughtful. Here's a plain-English foundation.

HOW IT WORKS

- ✓ **Know what AI is** — AI (like chatbots) predicts likely words — it doesn't 'know' facts or truly understand; it can sound confident and be wrong.
- ✓ **Think critically** — Question AI output: Is it accurate? Biased? Complete? Where's the source?
- ✓ **Verify** — Check important facts against reliable sources — don't take AI's word for it.
- ✓ **Use it ethically** — Be honest about using it, respect privacy, and consider fairness and bias.
- ✓ **Understand its limits** — AI reflects its training and can repeat mistakes and biases.

WHY IT MATTERS

- ✓ **Ask good questions** — Clear prompts get better help
- ✓ **Treat output as a draft** — A starting point to check and improve, not a final answer
- ✓ **Cross-check facts** — Especially names, numbers, dates, and quotes
- ✓ **Protect your privacy** — Don't share sensitive personal info with AI tools
- ✓ **Talk about it as a family** — Make AI literacy a shared conversation



AT A GLANCE

What	Understanding & using AI wisely...
Know	AI can be confidently wrong
Skill	Critical thinking about output
Verify	Always check important facts
Ethics	Honesty, privacy, fairness
For	Students AND families

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ✓ **What is AI literacy?** — Understanding AI, using it wisely, and thinking critically about its output.
- ✓ **Do I need to be technical?** — No — AI literacy is about thoughtful, critical use, not coding.
- ✓ **Why verify AI's answers?** — Because AI can be confidently wrong — it predicts words, it doesn't know facts.
- ✓ **What ethics matter?** — Honesty about use, privacy, and awareness of bias and fairness.
- ✓ **Is this a skill for parents too?** — Yes — it's best learned as a family.

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Using AI Wisely

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AI Tools for Learning

WHAT IT IS

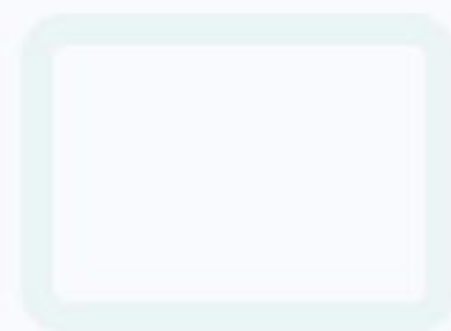
Used well, AI can be a genuinely helpful learning tool — offering patient explanations, instant feedback, and powerful accessibility support. This guide covers the upside: where AI can help students learn, and how to use it purposefully (rather than as a shortcut).

TYPES & OPTIONS

- ✓ **On-demand tutoring** — AI can explain a concept different ways, at a student's pace, any time — a helpful supplement to teachers.
- ✓ **Instant feedback** — On writing (structure, clarity) and math (steps, errors) — a chance to revise and learn.
- ✓ **Accessibility & support** — Text-to-speech, speech-to-text, translation, summarizing, and reading support — valuable for many learners, including those with disabilities.
- ✓ **Personalized practice** — Adaptive practice that adjusts to what a student needs.
- ✓ **Language learning & exploration** — Conversation practice and exploring topics of interest.

WHY IT MATTERS

AI can be especially supportive for students with learning differences — text-to-speech for dyslexia, speech-to-text for dysgraphia, summarizing and organizing tools for executive-function needs. (See our Special Education section on assistive technology.) The key is that these tools support the student's own learning.



AT A GLANCE

Tutoring	On-demand explanations & pract...
Feedback	Instant help on writing & math
Accessibility	Text-to-speech, translation &...
Personalized	Adapts to the student
Great for	Support & learning differences
Best when	Guided & purposeful

TIPS

- ✓ **Use it to understand, not to answer** — Ask AI to explain, then do the thinking yourself
- ✓ **Verify what it says** — AI can be wrong — check important facts
- ✓ **Pair with a human** — AI supplements teachers and tutors; it doesn't replace them
- ✓ **Explore accessibility features** — They can be a big help for many learners
- ✓ **Keep it purposeful** — Set a goal for each use

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ✓ **How can AI help my child learn?** — Tutoring, instant feedback, accessibility support, and personalized practice.
- ✓ **Is AI good for students with learning differences?** — It can be — tools like text-to-speech and speech-to-text are very helpful.
- ✓ **Does AI replace teachers?** — No — it's a supplement; human teaching and relationships matter most.
- ✓ **How do I make sure it helps, not hurts?** — Use it to understand (not to answer), verify facts, and keep it purposeful.
- ✓ **Where do I learn about assistive tech?** — See our Special Education assistive-technology guide.

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AI & Academic Integrity

WHAT IT IS

One of the biggest questions AI raises is academic integrity : when is using AI a legitimate tool, and when is it cheating? The honest answer is it depends on the assignment and the school's rules . This guide helps families understand the line and coach their child toward honest, transparent use.

HOW IT WORKS

- ✓ **It depends on the rules** — Some teachers allow AI for brainstorming or feedback; others prohibit it for certain work — the assignment's rules govern.
- ✓ **The bright line** — Passing off AI-generated work as your own — without permission — is cheating.
- ✓ **Legitimate uses** — Brainstorming, explaining a concept, checking work, or studying — when allowed and disclosed.
- ✓ **Why it matters** — The point of schoolwork is learning ; using AI to skip the thinking undercuts that.

WHY IT MATTERS

On AI detectors : tools that claim to detect AI-written text are unreliable and can produce false accusations (they've been shown to flag human writing, including from non-native English speakers). Many schools use them cautiously, if at all. The better path is clear expectations and honest use , not detection arms races.



AT A GLANCE

The question	Tool vs cheating
Depends on	The assignment & the rules
Schools	Setting AI-use policies
Detectors	Unreliable — used with caution
Teach	Honest, transparent use
Key	Learning is the point

TIPS

- ✓ **Know each teacher's rules** — AI policies differ by class and assignment
- ✓ **Teach transparency** — If AI is allowed, disclose how it was used
- ✓ **Emphasize learning** — AI should help your child understand, not replace their thinking
- ✓ **Model good use** — Show how to use AI to learn, not to shortcut
- ✓ **Don't rely on detectors** — They're unreliable — focus on honest habits

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ✓ **Is using AI cheating?** — It depends on the assignment's rules — passing off AI work as your own without permission is cheating.
- ✓ **What are legitimate uses?** — Brainstorming, explanations, studying, and checking work — when allowed and disclosed.
- ✓ **Do AI detectors work?** — Not reliably — they can falsely flag human writing; use them with great caution.
- ✓ **How do I help my child use AI honestly?** — Teach transparency, follow each teacher's rules, and keep the focus on learning.
- ✓ **Why does this matter?** — Because the goal of schoolwork is learning — not producing an answer.

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AI Privacy & Safety

WHAT IT IS

AI tools can collect a lot of data — what users type, upload, and do. For families, that raises real privacy and safety questions, especially for children. This guide covers what to watch for and how to use AI more safely at school and home.

HOW IT WORKS

- ✓ **What AI collects** — Many tools store what you type and may use it to improve their systems — read the privacy terms.
- ✓ **Student data & FERPA** — School-approved tools should protect student records under FERPA ; ask which AI tools your school has vetted.
- ✓ **Don't overshare** — Avoid putting sensitive personal information (full names, addresses, health, IDs) into AI tools.
- ✓ **Age matters** — Younger children need closer supervision and stricter limits.
- ✓ **Watch for content risks** — AI can produce inaccurate or inappropriate content — supervise use for kids.

TIPS

- ✓ **Review privacy terms** — Before your child uses a tool, check what it collects
- ✓ **Use school-vetted tools** — Prefer tools the school has approved for student data
- ✓ **Keep personal info out** — Teach kids never to share sensitive details with AI
- ✓ **Supervise younger kids** — Closer oversight for elementary-age students
- ✓ **Ask the school** — How they protect student data with AI (FERPA applies)



AT A GLANCE

Data	AI tools collect information
Protect	Don't share sensitive info
At school	Ask about vetted tools & FERPA
Check	A tool's privacy terms
Kids	Extra care for younger student...
Rule	When unsure, don't share

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ✓ **What data do AI tools collect?** — Often what you type and upload — and some use it to improve their systems.
- ✓ **Is my child's data protected at school?** — School-vetted tools should protect records under FERPA — ask your school.
- ✓ **What shouldn't we share with AI?** — Sensitive personal info — full names, addresses, health details, IDs.
- ✓ **Are AI tools safe for young kids?** — They need supervision and stricter limits — content can be inaccurate or inappropriate.
- ✓ **How do I use AI more safely?** — Review privacy terms, use vetted tools, and keep personal info out.

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