

Office of Education



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OHIO CONFERENCE

Appendix E: Student FAQs

Ohio Conference AI Usage Policy

Board Approved April 20, 2026. Effective July 1, 2026.

This appendix contains three age-differentiated versions of frequently asked questions about AI and how to use it responsibly at school.

Appendix E.1: For Students in Kindergarten through Grade 4

Q: What is Artificial Intelligence or AI?

AI is a computer program that can learn and make decisions, kind of like having a very smart robot helper. AI can write words, make pictures, and answer questions. But AI is not a person, and it doesn't think the way you do.

Q: Will I use AI at school?

Your teacher might use AI to help create fun lessons and practice activities. But your teacher is in charge, not the AI. Your teacher uses AI to help them teach you better.

Q: Can I use AI myself?

Right now, in your grade, your teacher will show you how AI works, but you won't use it by yourself. Your teacher is always the one in charge. When you get older, you will learn more about AI and how to use it.

Q: Is AI always right?

No! AI makes mistakes all the time. It might make up a wrong fact that sounds true, or it might get confused. That's why we never believe AI without checking with a teacher, librarian, or parent first.

Q: What should I do if I see AI doing something wrong or mean?

Tell your teacher or principal right away. Don't keep using it if it seems wrong.

Q: What is "analog time"?

That's time when we are NOT using computers or screens. It's when we play outside, talk to friends, read books without screens, and do things that don't need computers. These times are really important and help our brains and bodies stay healthy.

Appendix E.2: For Students in Grades 5 through 8

Q: What exactly is Artificial Intelligence?

AI refers to computer systems that learn from data and can make predictions or decisions. Large language models like Gemini and ChatGPT are trained on huge amounts of text to predict what word should come next. This makes them really useful for brainstorming, drafting, and research, but they are not thinking the way you do.

Q: Can I use AI for homework?

Yes, with permission from your teacher. You can use approved AI tools like Gemini for Education for research, brainstorming, and drafting. But if you use AI, you **MUST** disclose it on the AI Disclosure Statement. You cannot submit AI work as if it was all your own.

Q: What's a "hallucination" in AI?

It's when AI makes something up that sounds real but isn't. AI might invent a quotation, make up a statistic, or cite a source that doesn't exist. This is why you always have to verify what AI tells you before using it in your work.

Q: How do I verify what AI gives me?

Check the source. If AI quotes someone, look up the actual quotation. If it gives you a statistic, see where it came from. Talk to your teacher or librarian if you're not sure. When in doubt, don't use it.

Q: What if I use AI without telling my teacher?

That's academic dishonesty and it's a serious violation. You will face academic penalties, and your parents will be notified.

Q: What is a deepfake?

A deepfake is a fake image, video, or audio created by AI that looks real but isn't. Creating a deepfake of a real person without permission is against school rules and also against the law in Ohio. Don't do it.

Q: What is "analog-protected time"?

It's time at school (and at home) when you are not using screens or AI. These moments are important for conversations with friends, outdoor time, sports, and activities that let your brain rest from screens. Our school protects this time for your health and wellbeing.

Appendix E.3: For Students in Grades 9 through 12

Q: What is the difference between narrow AI and artificial general intelligence (AGI)?

Current AI systems like large language models are "narrow AI": they excel at specific tasks (language generation, image recognition) but don't have true understanding or consciousness. AGI (general intelligence) remains theoretical. Our policy focuses on responsible use of current narrow AI tools.

Q: Can I use AI for research?

Yes. Approved tools like Gemini for Education are designed for research support. But remember: AI can hallucinate. Always verify citations, cross-reference facts, and use multiple sources. AI should supplement your research, not replace it.

Q: How do I disclose AI use properly?

Complete the AI Disclosure Statement for any assignment where you use AI. Document which tool you used, what task you assigned it, how you verified the output, and how you transformed it. Failure to disclose is academic dishonesty.

Q: What are the limitations of AI that I should understand?

AI systems have several key limitations: (1) They hallucinate and make confident false statements. (2) They reflect biases in their training data. (3) They lack true understanding and reasoning. (4) They cannot access current information beyond their training date. (5) They are not appropriate for all tasks. Understanding these limitations is critical to using AI responsibly.

Q: What does "Human-in-the-Loop" mean in the context of this policy?

It means that humans must always evaluate, review, and take responsibility for significant decisions informed by AI. AI can inform decisions, but humans make them. This applies to teacher use of AI and also to student use: you are always responsible for your work, regardless of how much AI assisted you.

Q: What is a "Walled Garden" and why does it matter?

A Walled Garden is a protected data environment where your personal information and school data never leave the system to train external AI models or be sold to third parties. This is critical for your privacy. All approved school tools meet this standard; not all publicly available AI tools do.

Q: What are the ethical issues with AI I should think about?

Ethical questions include: (1) Who benefits from AI and who bears the costs? (2) Does AI use perpetuate bias against certain groups? (3) What are the environmental costs of training large AI models? (4) How do I respect intellectual property and consent when using AI? (5) Am I offloading my responsibility to think critically by deferring to AI?

Q: What if I want to experiment with AI tools outside the approved list?

Talk to your teacher or principal first. Tools not on the approved list may not meet our data privacy standards. Using unauthorized tools could put your personal data at risk.

Q: How do I develop critical thinking about AI rather than just AI dependence?

(1) Always verify AI output. (2) Ask "What could this AI get wrong?" (3) Recognize your own thinking as valuable and irreplaceable. (4) Learn the limitations of AI systems. (5) Use AI as a thinking tool, not a replacement for your own thought. (6) Seek diverse perspectives and be skeptical of any single source of information, including AI.