



Parents' Guide: 8 Questions to Ask About AI in Schools

school

skül (noun): an institution for the teaching of children

Despite the absence of federal safety guidelines to protect children from the wide range of risks associated with using artificial intelligence tools, the rush is on to deploy AI in schools. Some say early exposure is the key to “winning the AI race” — but we have questions. If AI products are being introduced to your child’s school, we encourage parents to ask some basic questions, including:

1 What policies are in place to ensure student safety?

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy¹ has recommended that there should always be a human in the loop during AI interactions. Is the school ensuring there is always an adult present to monitor student/machine interactions? Will schools keep records of student interactions with AI for parents to view if needed?

2 How will teachers monitor and address AI “hallucinations”?

According to the Department of Education’s Office of Educational Technology, “AI may provide information that appears authentic, but actually is inaccurate or lacking a basis in reality.”² What is the school policy to guide students through assessing information quality and accuracy?

3 Will parents be allowed to opt-out their child from using AI so the student can continue to build foundational critical thinking skills?

Academic achievement requires the sequential acquisition of ever-greater skills in math, reading, analysis and evaluation. Given that AI tools can research and analyze information at exponential speed, how will the school ensure students continue to acquire research and writing competencies and that AI is utilized only when it advances — and doesn’t displace — student achievement?

4 What is the school’s data privacy policy? And what limits exist, if any, on the type of data AI companies can collect from students and use to train their models?

Generative AI tools, such as Google Gemini and ChatGPT, utilize the information gathered from users to train their algorithms, raising significant questions about privacy, data security and the potential for misuse.³ In the absence of comprehensive federal data privacy standards, how are schools ensuring child user data is protected?

5 With numerous lawsuits pending against AI companies for training their models on copyrighted information, how is the school teaching students about authorship, plagiarism and the importance of the school’s honor code?

Currently dozens of copyright lawsuits are pending against AI companies filed by individual authors, visual artists and media companies who allege that their work was used to train AI models — in a manner that is tantamount to theft.⁴

6 Can the school point to any science-based evidence that the AI product being introduced has a positive impact on learning? In which subjects and at which grade-levels?

AI companies stand to make a lot of money from the widespread deployment of their products. But schools are not profit-centers; they are a place to foster education. Where is the independent testing to demonstrate the use of AI in the classroom improves educational outcomes?

7 What protocol does your school or school board have in place to determine the appropriate age and/or grade level to introduce AI into the classroom?

Early exposure to screen-based technology leads to brain changes in young children and can affect cognitive development. What standards is your school using to determine age-appropriate times to introduce various AI products? Are there any state guidelines available?

8 As use of AI chatbots increases, so do the number of people developing romantic attachments, experiencing delusional spirals, or divulging emotional problems – and being encouraged to harm themselves or others⁵. If children experience a harm due to AI programs that were introduced to them by the school, will the school be liable?

As this is a nascent area of law, it is unclear whether individual schools or school districts will be held liable for providing kids with defective products. Legislation pertaining to AI has been introduced in most states, but as of the start of the 2025-2026 school year, only a handful of states have passed specific AI safety regulations — and there are currently no comprehensive AI safety requirements at the federal level. What's more, some federal lawmakers are considering allowing AI companies to apply for “waivers” to exempt them from regulations as a means of speeding up AI innovation.⁶ Nonetheless, a federal court recently found that Google and Character.AI must face a lawsuit from a Florida woman who said Character.AI's chatbots caused her 14-year-old son's suicide.⁷

For additional information:

Visit WeAreMAMA.org and check out our resources like “[AI & Kids: What Parents Need to Know](#).”

Sources:

¹The White House, *Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights*, 2022.

²Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology, *Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Teaching and Learning*, May 2023

³The Stanford Institute for Human-Centered AI, *Rethinking Privacy in the AI Era: Policy Provocations for a Data-Centric World*, White Paper, February 2024

⁴Wired, *Every AI Copyright Lawsuit in the US, Visualized*, Dec 19, 2024.

⁵Computers in Human Behavior *Artificial Humans, Love, marriage, pregnancy: Commitment processes in romantic relationships with AI chatbots*, April 2025; *The New York Times*, *Chatbots Can Go Into A Delusional Spiral. Here's How it Happens*, Aug. 8, 2025; NPR, *Lawsuit: A chatbot hinted a kid should kill his parents over screen time limits*. Dec. 10, 2024.

⁶POLITICO Pro, *Cruz bill would loosen rules to speed up AI*, Aug 13, 2025

⁷The Washington Post. *Judge rejects claim chatbots have free speech in suit over teen's death*. May 22, 2025.

