

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

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# California State Board of Education January 2024 Agenda Item #18

## Subject

Update on the California Department of Education's Artificial Intelligence Guidance and Support for Districts, including a practitioner’s perspective of artificial intelligence in education.

## Type of Action

Information

## Summary of the Issue(s)

This item will give an overview of the Statewide initiatives currently underway, specifically the California Department of Education (CDE) guidance document “Learning With Artificial Intelligence (AI), Learning About Artificial Intelligence (AI)” located at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/cs/aiincalifornia.asp>.

The item will also include a presentation from a practitioner’s perspective that emphasizes the potential transformative opportunities for artificial intelligence in classrooms, coupled with the need for rigorous safety measures and a foundation of equity.

## Recommendation

No specific action is recommended at this time.

## Brief History of Key Issues

In the last year and a half, a great deal of attention has been focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) particularly as it relates to federal and state policies. At the national level, The White House, in October 2022, released the Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights are five principles to help protect the rights of the American public in the age of artificial intelligence.1

On May 24, 2023, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology (OET) released a report, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Future of Teaching and Learning: Insights and Recommendations" (<https://www2.ed.gov/documents/ai-report/ai-report.pdf>). This report summarizes the opportunities and risks for AI in teaching, learning, research, and assessment.

The report also recognizes AI as a rapidly advancing set of technologies and also outlines risks associated with AI and the importance of appropriate guardrails to protect educators and students.

The OET is also working to develop policies on the “effective, safe, and fair use of AI-enabled educational technology.”

At the State level, on September 6, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom signed an Executive Order regarding AI, with provisions that require study of the development, use, and risks of AI throughout California, and to develop a deliberate and responsible process for evaluation and deployment of AI within state government. Following Governor Newsom’s Executive Order to prepare California for the progress of Generative Artificial Intelligence, the administration released a report on November 21, 2023, examining the most beneficial uses and potential harms of Generative AI (GenAI) in state government.

Also, in September 2023, the California Department of Education (CDE) released AI guidance for school districts. California is only one of two states to issue statewide school guidance for AI.

The CDE AI guidance reiterates the need for compliance with current federal and state student privacy laws and was developed in alignment with the OET report “Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Teaching and Learning: Insights and Recommendations,” Parallels are found between CDE AI guidance and California Executive Order N-12-23, White House AI Bill of Rights, and the California GenAI Report.

As is the case with all technologies utilized in educational settings, student safety concerns underscore the importance of evaluating terms of use, data collection guidelines, and ethical use policies with respect to AI in schools. CDE’s AI guidance encourages educators to engage in professional learning regarding the capabilities and limitations of AI so that they may guide students in navigating a world in which AI permeates personal and professional lives. Professional learning can guide educators to supporting safe environments in which students learn with AI. Learning with AI can enhance academic learning in any content area, when implemented with safety and ethical use in mind. Educators and students learning with AI may have conversations regarding appropriate use of AI in and outside of the classroom, crafting ethical use guidelines together to ensure students build skills in leveraging the benefits of AI while maintaining academic integrity and maximizing learner responsibility.

CDE’s AI guidance encourages educational leaders to provide access to computer science education for all K-12 students so that students learn about AI equitably. As educators and students demystify AI systems, as they see past the perceived “magic” of these technologies and deconstruct them to build a conceptual understanding of their inner workings, they are better able to engage as responsible, ethical citizens of emerging technologies.

CDE is committed to supporting AI-focused professional learning for administrators and educators, to educate them about AI's benefits and limitations and to keep them up to date on emerging technology tools for the classroom. CDE’s Computer Science Coordinator has participated in numerous AI panels across the state and has led CDE’s STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) workgroup in introducing AI to CDE. The department hosted an AI panel discussion in May of 2023 entitled “Artificial Intelligence: Demystifying AI for CA Students,” (<https://csforca.org/artificial-intelligence-panel/>) and the Computer Science Coordinator regularly collaborates with members of the Computer Science Teachers Association and CSforCA AI workgroup to remain current on educational trends in the field of AI and other emerging technologies in respect to their impacts on education.

CDE has prepared additional resources to support educators, including the implementation of an AI webinar series “Artificial Intelligence: Learning with AI, Learning about AI,” which features educators from K12 and postsecondary spaces, as well as industry professionals, complete with actionable resources for schools with a learner centered focus. CDE is participating along with multiple organizations including Code.org, Educational Testing Services, International Society for Technology in Education, Khan Academy, and World Economic Forum, in the TeachAI project (teachai.org), to engage in conversations with a goal of empowering educators to teach with and about AI.

As CDE continues to navigate the integration of AI into education and as Federal policies are developed and shaped, the discussions may turn to how AI may influence SBE deliberations in the future, including, for example, how AI may be used with respect to instructional materials, assessments, and other areas within the SBE’s purview. Insights from educational practitioners serve as a valuable contribution, highlighting the challenges, opportunities, and the critical importance of prioritizing equity in this technological evolution.

## Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

Not applicable

## Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

Not applicable

## Attachment(s)

Presentations will be available prior to the SBE meeting on the BOX account through the SBE listserv.