



Parent Coalition for Student Privacy



Why we need a moratorium on use of AI in NYC public schools

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What is Generative AI?

- Type of artificial intelligence that can create new content, such as text, images, music, videos, and code, based on collecting and processing existing data
- Large Language models (LLMs) are a specific type of Gen AI that generates text or spoken words to answer questions, solve problems, and approximate how humans write and speak
- LLMs use a technique which predicts the next word in a sequence based on past patterns
- Examples: Chat GPT [Open AI], Claude [Anthropic], Google Gemini, Perplexity, MS Co-Pilot, DeepSeek [Chinese company]
- Many of these tools are now embedded in ed tech programs used in NYC schools

Risk to student privacy

- **Most** AI programs collect and data-mine personal student information to improve their products, in violation of the state student privacy law, [Education Law 2D](#) and its [regulations](#);
- **One** commonly used products in schools is Chat GPT, even though its vendor Open AI [admits](#) that their products have “*the potential to be used ...to identify private individuals when augmented with outside data*”
- **Yet** [growing numbers of teachers in NYC](#) use AI programs to grade & give feedback to student work, write curriculum & create Individualized Education Programs for students with disabilities, which contain very sensitive personal information;

Risks to student learning including their cognitive development, critical thinking & creativity

- One recent study shows that the more time students spent with AI programs, the worse they did on their assessments
- AI acts as a “crutch,” preventing them from fully engaging with or understanding the material
- Another article showed "a significant negative correlation between frequent AI tool usage in educational settings” and students’ critical thinking abilities;
- Yet another recent study suggested that the use of AI undermines student creativity & encourages group thinking

Conclusions of recent Brookings Institute report

- Researchers held interviews, focus groups, and consulted with over 500 students, teachers, parents, education leaders, and technologists across 50 countries
- They also reviewed over 400 studies,
- They concluded that at this point, “***the risks of utilizing generative AI in children’s education overshadow its benefits.***”

Algorithms used by AI have been shown to have embedded biases

- Many experts including Open AI [point out](#) that the algorithms used by AI products can “*reinforce & reproduce specific biases & worldviews, including harmful stereotypical & demeaning associations for certain marginalized groups.*”
- [A recent study](#) found racial bias in AI-generated behavior intervention programs used by teachers
- [Another article](#) concluded that many AI systems feature systematic “harms of omission, subordination, and stereotyping,” known to trigger psychological harm to affected minorities

Risks to student mental health & social skills

- AI programs and especially chatbots have been shown to pose significant risks to the mental health and social development of children and teens,
- In some cases, relationships developed between children and chatbots have contributed to their committing suicide
- The increased use of AI in schools has to potential of undermining the skills and habits necessary for collaboration, debate, and the human interaction central to a quality education;

AI programs often offer false or misleading information, known as “hallucinations”, with error rates of up to 79%;

| AI Model | Hallucination Rate |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Perplexity | 37% |
| Copilot | 40% |
| Perplexity Pro | 45% |
| ChatGPT Search | 67% |
| Deepseek Search | 68% |
| Gemini | 76% |
| Grok-2 Search | 77% |
| Grok-3 Search | 94% |

Source: [Columbia Journalism Review](#), March 2025. Responses where no answer was provided were not considered a hallucination.

Harming the environment & increasing electric rates

- Expanding use of AI nationwide has led to a surge in construction of huge data centers needed to process all the data
- These data centers rely on an increased use of electricity, causing electricity rates to soar.
- They also use fresh water for cooling, leading to water shortages in many cases
- Worse yet, they are causing a rapid increase of carbon emissions, exacerbating the climate crisis
- Over [12 new data centers](#) have applied to join the electricity grid in NYS

These concerns & more
have led to a growing
backlash against AI
nationwide –



Many AI products are currently used in NYC schools

- AI programs include HMH's Writeable. It's privacy agreement on DOE website links to [webpage](#) which states that the data will be used for "**product improvement**" which violates Ed Law 2D.
- HMH "partners" with Amira, which collects student voices, considered especially sensitive biometric data.
- [About biometric data, NYSED says](#): "***schools must consider the privacy implications thereof; the impact on civil rights, if any; the effectiveness of the biometric tool; and parental input.***"
- MagicSchool AI programs are used in many NYC schools and offers a product that teachers can use to create IEPs.
- Their [Privacy Agreement](#) says their AI sub-contractors including OpenAI, Anthropic, Perplexity.ai and Google Gemini among others

Opposition growing as is AI expansion in NYC schools

- Concerns are rising in NYC among parents, students, and teachers, about the negative impacts of AI
- Result: Panel for Educational Policy rejected contracts for AI products four times in recent months
- Yet DOE allows schools to use these products anyway and is encouraging the expanded use of AI in schools without any guardrails
- Some teachers have asked students to use off-the shelf AI products like Chat GPT, whose privacy policy says should NEVER be used by any student under 18.
- Recently DOE posted links to new AI programs on the TeachHub site, including HMH Waggle and Google Gemini, encouraging their use by teachers and students

Proposal for a new AI high school

- DOE has proposal to create Next Gen HS, new AI high school to be sited in Lower Manhattan, to voted on by the PEP on April 29.
- The principal of the school said students will utilize Google's new, AI-powered Skills Platform.
- Yet the Platform's privacy policy says student personal data can be used to send users promotional information - which violates the state law
- It says the data may be shared with unnamed "business partners"
- *Also says their "services are not intended for use by children, and you must be over the age of 18 to use the Services"*

What's happening to minimize AI risks to NYC students?

- In June 2025, Chancellor Ramos appointed a Working Group on AI to propose guidelines and guardrails for the use of AI
- Yet our Working Group was sidelined and stonewalled by DOE, which refused even to provide a list of AI products already used in schools along with their privacy policies, claiming that had non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) with these companies
- Meanwhile, the DOE has just released an AI guidance with input from their AI Advisory Council, which includes reps from the ed tech industry.
- It provides no additional checks to ensure data privacy and doesn't even claim to have begun to assess the potentially negative impacts of AI on learning, critical thinking, creativity, mental health, algorithmic biases or the environment.

How can you help?

- Sign [the petition](https://tinyurl.com/petitionAImoratorium) from our coalition calling for an AI moratorium, so that rigorous protections can be developed first with parent, teacher & expert input to prevent harm to kids & the environment at <https://tinyurl.com/petitionAImoratorium>
- Pass [a resolution](#) in support of a moratorium and urge CEC6 to do so; five CECs have done so already with more to come
- Subscribe to our mailing list at classsizematters.org/subscribe/ for updates

