Artificial Intelligence Guiding Principles

Part I: Introduction and Objectives

Introduction

The rapid emergence and evolution of generative artificial intelligence (AI) has had a broad impact in a number of areas, particularly in education. The Board recognizes the potential of AI to enhance educational experiences and outcomes. This policy aims to ensure that AI is being used responsibly, ethically, and effectively within our educational settings.

This policy applies to all AI technologies used within the District, encompassing software and platforms that utilize machine learning, natural language processing, and other forms of AI. It covers the use of these technologies by employees and students across all grades.

Objectives

Promote Digital Literacy: Encourage responsible digital citizenship and literacy among students.

Protect Academic Integrity: Address concerns related to academic honesty and integrity in the age of AI.

Guide Responsible Use: Establish clear guidelines for the ethical and effective use of AI in educational settings.

Enhance Equity: Enhance equitable access to AI technologies, address potential biases in AI applications, and strategically employ AI to improve disability accessibility.

Support Professional Development: Provide ongoing training and support for teachers and administrators in the use of AI.

Part II: Policy for Teachers and Administrators

A. The Use of Generative AI in the Workplace
- **Scope of Use:** The District will permit the use of generative AI among teachers and administrators across a range of tasks, including but not limited to, personalized learning plans, curriculum development, generating educational content, and enhancing administrative efficiency in areas like scheduling, resource allocation, and data analysis for school improvement strategies.
- **Transparency and Attribution:** Teachers should be transparent about their use of generative AI. This involves clearly informing students when AI-generated content is being used outside of routine settings and distinguishing it from human-generated content. This transparency extends to academic honesty, where AI may be used to automate routine grading tasks but should not be used to fully carry out tasks that require a teacher's specific expertise and experience (such as in grading student essays).

B. Training and Professional Development

- **Regular Training:** Organize training sessions on AI tools, focusing on their educational applications, ethical considerations, and regulatory application.
- **Resource Evaluation:** Conduct assessments of AI tools for their relevance, safety, and educational value.
- **Integration in Curriculum:** Support the thoughtful integration of AI into the curriculum, aligning it with educational goals and standards.

C. Responsible Use and Ethical Considerations
- **Adherence to Ethical Guidelines:** All AI usage shall comply with established ethical guidelines as defined by Chapter 25 of the BoEE. In particular, teachers should also be aware of and address any biases present in AI-generated content, ensuring that the materials are inclusive and representative of diverse perspectives. Additionally, they should be mindful of the ethical implications of AI use in education and avoid using AI in ways that could harm students or propagate misinformation.
- **Data Privacy and Security:** Teachers must adhere to strict data privacy standards when using generative AI. This includes ensuring the security of student and staff data when using AI and not using personal information.
- **COPPA Compliance:** Ensure all AI usage aligns with the rules and regulations laid out in Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) and other relevant legal requirements.

Part III: Policy for Student Use and Exposure

A. Students under 13 years old
- **Controlled Exposure:** The District will introduce AI through structured and guided activities, with a focus on fostering digital literacy and online safety.
- **Curriculum Integration:** AI will be used as a supplementary tool to enhance learning experiences, not to replace traditional teaching methods.
- **Parental Involvement:** The District will involve parents in understanding the role and purpose of AI in their children's education.
- **Supervised Use:** The District will have teachers or other educators supervise AI use by students in order to help maintain a safe and supportive learning environment.

B. Students 13 and older
- **Advanced Interaction:** The District will gradually increase the complexity and depth of AI interactions, emphasizing critical thinking and ethical implications.
- **Project-Based Learning:** The District will encourage the application of AI in research projects and assignments to foster innovation, creativity, and problem-solving skills.
- **Career Preparedness:** AI applications will be introduced relevant to various career paths, providing students with insights into future job opportunities.
- **Ethical Discussions:** The District will incorporate regular discussions about the ethics of AI, its biases, and societal impacts, fostering a culture of responsible technology use.

Part IV: Selecting and Vetting AI Tools

- **Compliance and Safety Checks:** AI tools used by the District will comply with data privacy laws and be considered appropriate for student use.
- **Educational Relevance:** The educational value of AI tools and their appropriateness for different age groups and learning objectives will be assessed by the District.

- **Pilot Programs:** Pilot programs may be implemented to evaluate the effectiveness of new AI tools before considering District-wide adoption.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** The District will seek feedback from teachers, students, and parents about the use and impact of AI tools.
- **Continual Assessment:** The District will reassess and update policies and practices to endeavor to stay current with technological advancements and emerging educational needs.

Part V: Addressing Academic Integrity

- **Educational Approach:** The District will emphasize educating students about the responsible and ethical use of AI, focusing on learning and understanding.