STAFF AND STUDENT USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) within Volusia County Schools, ensuring its use aligns with our commitment to enhancing education, protecting student data privacy, and maintaining academic integrity.

II. INTRODUCTION

This policy applies to all district staff and students as specified within. This policy outlines allowable uses of AI while safeguarding student data privacy and fostering equitable access. Artificial intelligence (AI) can enhance administrative efficiency, personalize learning experiences, and assist educators. The potential of AI is substantial, not in substituting human instruction, but by augmenting and streamlining their endeavors. AI supports the 'augmented intelligence' model, a synergy of human and artificial intelligence, enhancing cognitive performance, learning, and decision-making.

AI can undertake routine tasks, freeing teachers to invest more time in direct, interpersonal interactions with students. Its potential for improving assessments, providing immediate, personalized student feedback, and delivering valuable, implementable data to teachers to improve instructional effectiveness is constantly increasing as AI learns more about how to better meet the needs of educators and students.

Like all information, students should be taught to evaluate AI generated content skeptically. They must learn to decern credible information from noncredible and use research skills to find original sources and validate their accuracy.

VCS regards data privacy and security as fundamental aspects of ethical AI use. All staff must be diligent custodians of student data, safeguarding the privacy and security of our learners as we incorporate AI into our classrooms.

AI is a potent tool that can dramatically improve education by offering personalized, inclusive, and compelling learning experiences when used responsibly and ethically. However, the essential value of human wisdom, judgment, and connection remains at the heart of our instructional practices.

III. STAFF USE OF AI

Volusia County Schools' staff may use AI for administrative and instructional purposes.

> **Allowable Staff Uses**:
>
> Data analysis, scheduling, communication, resource allocation, predictive analytics, personalized learning, adaptive testing, classroom assessment, lesson planning, and progress monitoring. The following applied examples may change over time as this technology quickly evolves.

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- AI-powered scheduling and logistics: Optimize bus routes, manage facility maintenance, and streamline class scheduling, reducing manual burden and increasing efficiency.

- Predictive analytics: Identify at-risk students for early intervention, predict future resource needs, and forecast maintenance issues before they arise, promoting proactive decision-making.

- Personalized communication: Automate personalized messages to parents, students, and faculty regarding deadlines, events, and progress reports, fostering improved communication and engagement.

- Lesson Planning: Use AI to help generate standards-aligned lesson and unit plans.

- AI-driven data analysis: Gain insights from vast datasets to identify trends, measure program effectiveness, and inform resource allocation, enabling data-driven decision-making.

- Fraud detection and risk management: Identify and prevent fraudulent activities in financial systems, protecting school resources and ensuring budget compliance.

- Adaptive learning platforms: Tailor instruction to individual student needs and learning styles, offering differentiated learning experiences that cater to diverse learners.

- Augmented feedback and grading: Utilize AI assistants to provide personalized feedback on student writing, code, and projects, freeing up educator time for deeper interactions.

- Intelligent tutoring systems: Offer immediate individualized support and practice opportunities to students, particularly in areas where educator availability might be limited.

- Immersive and interactive learning: Utilize AI-powered virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) experiences to create engaging and interactive learning environments.

- Personalized language learning: Offer dynamic language learning tools that adapt to individual progress and learning styles, accelerating language acquisition.

- Accessibility tools: Integrate AI-powered text-to-speech, speech-to-text, and translation tools to support students with diverse learning needs and abilities, fostering inclusive learning environments.

- Research assistance: Leverage AI-powered research tools to efficiently find credible sources, analyze data, generate citations, and facilitate in-depth research exploration. Employ data visualization tools to represent and interpret research findings. Any use of AI for professional documents or publications must be cited appropriately.

Unallowable Staff Uses:
Any use that infringes upon the privacy rights of students or staff, or any use not in compliance with local, state, and federal laws. The following applied examples may change over time as this technology quickly evolves.

- Decisions with significant impact: AI will not be used to make decisions about students that could have a significant impact on their lives, such as report card grades, graduation, or disciplinary actions.

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- Discrimination or bias: AI systems will not be used in any way that discriminates against students based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, or any other protected characteristic.

- Data privacy violations: AI systems will not be used to collect or store student data in violation of state and federal privacy laws, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

- Submitting Generative AI Writing as Original Writing: This includes professional writing samples used for evaluation, promotion, or completion of state or district programs to earn a certification or credential. AI may be used as a feedback mechanism as part of the writing process, but fully transparent citation of AI use is required.

IV. STUDENT USE OF AI

Volusia County Schools' students may use AI for learning purposes. The following allowable uses do not supersede any specific advanced course requirements found in the guidelines for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Career and Technical Education Academies, or other specialized programs that may set more strict requirements on AI use than this policy.

Allowable Student Uses:

Research, practice problems, studying, concept reinforcement, data analysis, communication, personalized feedback, adaptive testing, classroom assessment, tutoring, learning disabilities assistive technology, and career exploration. The following applied examples may change over time as this technology quickly evolves.

- Research assistance: Leverage AI-powered research tools to efficiently find credible sources, analyze data, generate citations, and facilitate in-depth research exploration. Employ data visualization tools to represent and interpret research findings. Any use of AI for formal assignments must be cited appropriately.
- Creative writing and storytelling: Utilize AI-assisted writing tools to spark creativity, explore different writing styles, and receive feedback on their work. Students can leverage AI-powered story generators to brainstorm ideas or utilize image-creation tools to visualize their concepts.
- Personalized learning resources: Access AI-powered study guides, practice problems, and adaptive quizzes tailored to their individual learning pace and understanding, promoting self-directed learning.
- Accessibility support: Utilize AI-powered tools like text-to-speech, speech-to-text, and magnification software to access learning materials and participate in class activities, empowering students with disabilities.
- Career exploration: Interact with AI-powered career exploration platforms to gain insights into potential career paths, assess skills, and discover educational pathways, guiding future goals.

Unallowable Student Uses:

Any use in violation of the Student Code of Conduct or any use not in compliance with local, state, and federal laws. The following applied examples may change over time as this technology quickly evolves.

- Any use of AI to complete assignments, tests, or projects in lieu of the student's own work will be considered cheating unless the use of AI was sanctioned and guided by the student's teacher.
- Submitting Generative AI Writing as Original Work: It is strictly prohibited to submit any AI-generated text as original work. This includes essays, poems, stories, or any other creative writing assignments. All submitted work must be the product of the student's own intellectual effort and analysis. AI may be used as a feedback mechanism as part of the writing process, but fully transparent citation of AI use is required.
- Using AI When Prohibited: Teachers may explicitly prohibit the use of AI tools on any specific assignment or piece of schoolwork. Following the instructions provided by educators is crucial in maintaining academic integrity.
- Fabricating or Manipulating Data: Employing AI to fabricate or manipulate data for research projects or assignments is strictly forbidden. All data presented must be accurate and represent genuine findings.
- Unattributed Collaboration: Using AI as an uncredited collaborator in any project or assignment undermines intellectual honesty.

V. STUDENT DATA PRIVACY

VCS is committed to protecting student data privacy. AI tools must comply with all relevant laws and regulations, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). AI is subject to the same student data privacy requirements for other software systems as described in *Policy 527 Software Selection, Adoption, and Retirement*.

VI. STAFF CONSEQUENCES

Employees who violate this policy or engage in unlawful activities may be denied access to VCSD technology resources and may be subject to civil or criminal penalties. Violations are investigated by the Professional Standards Office and may include law enforcement agency involvement. VCSD has the right to immediately suspend or remove building and/or user account access, prior to the completion of such procedures, in order to protect the safety of students, employees, VCSD data, property, and technology resources.

VII. STUDENT CONSEQUENCES

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action as described in the Student Code of Conduct.

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Legal Authority:
    Sections 1001.41(1), 1001.42(5),(8), Florida Statutes

Laws Implemented:
    Sections 1001.43(3)(a), 1003.02(1)(d), Florida Statutes

History:

    (Adopted)

    (Revised)

    (Effective Date)

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