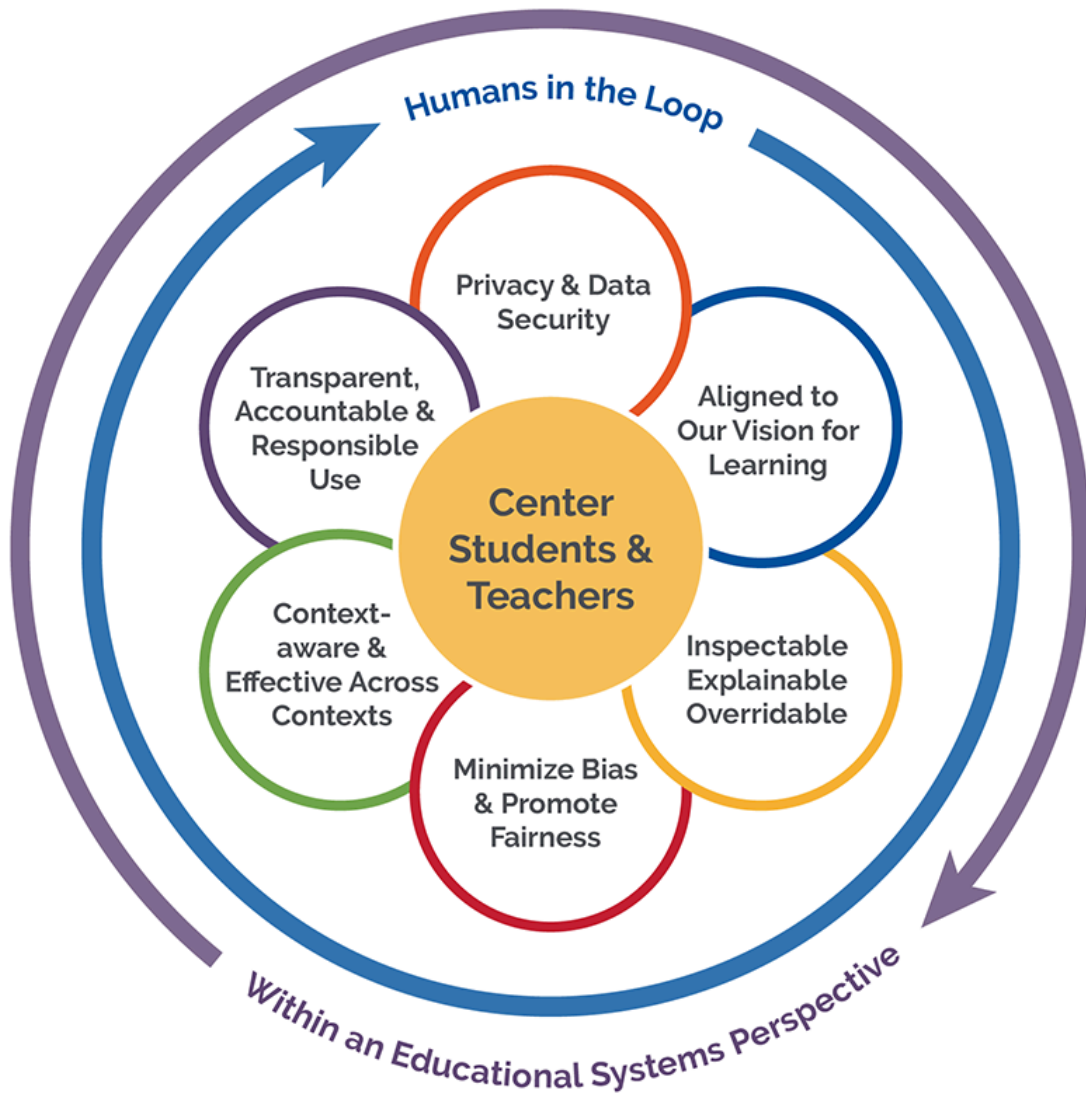


DUSD AI Guidelines

2024 - 2025



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Section 1: Aligned to Our Vision for Learning

At Dinuba Unified School District, we have a long-standing vision of ending generational poverty through education and a mission of ensuring all DUSD students graduate and are prepared for college, career, and life. Artificial Intelligence for classroom instruction and student learning must be integrated into this vision and mission for the district as we strive to end generational poverty in our community.

Furthermore, as Dinuba Unified embraces AI's potential in education, it's crucial to establish a responsible and safe AI policy. Doing so will help safeguard students and educators while maximizing the benefits of AI technology. In a rapidly evolving technological landscape, a well-defined policy provides much-needed direction and guidance for navigating the ethical and practical considerations surrounding AI implementation in schools.

Additionally, a comprehensive policy ensures the ethical and fair implementation of AI. A good policy can address concerns such as privacy, bias in decision-making, and inappropriate content filtering. This policy can empower teachers and protect students from potential harm by setting clear guidelines for using AI tools. Additionally, it can foster trust and transparency within the school community, paving the way for AI's responsible and productive use for learning and teaching.

Finally, incorporating artificial intelligence into classroom instruction and learning is a vision that prioritizes the involvement of students and teachers. This approach emphasizes the importance of keeping humans at the forefront of the process and ensuring they remain central to using AI in education.

Section 2: Purpose & Rationale

This document was designed to establish guidelines for the responsible, ethical, and safe use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in our school community.

Integrating artificial intelligence (AI) can revolutionize student learning and teaching practices by providing enhanced student opportunities and creating a more equitable and accessible learning environment. Moreover, equipping students with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate and thrive in an AI-driven landscape is essential. Students gain subject-specific knowledge and skills by integrating AI tools into educational curricula and learning experiences. Students can also develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital literacy skills. Exposure to AI technologies encourages students to become adept at analyzing data, interpreting algorithms, and understanding ethical considerations, preparing them for future career opportunities and societal participation.

Furthermore, using AI tools in education and learning environments can significantly increase efficiency by automating routine tasks and freeing up valuable time. This automation allows educators to focus on high-impact activities, design engaging lessons, and provide individualized support, ultimately optimizing learning outcomes and student success.

Section 3: Data Privacy, Safety, & Security

Ensuring data privacy and security is a top priority when implementing AI technologies within our district. We are committed to upholding the highest data privacy and security standards to safeguard student data and ensure the ethical and transparent deployment of AI tools.

Data Privacy & Compliance

Our district adheres to all relevant federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing student data privacy, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), and any additional state or local regulations. We have established robust protocols for collecting, storing, and managing student data, minimizing the collection of personal information to only what is necessary for educational purposes.

AI Data Security

In addition to complying with legal requirements, we will implement stringent data security measures to protect student data from unauthorized access or breaches. These measures include implementing strict access controls and encryption, regular auditing and monitoring of data practices, and providing comprehensive training to all staff with access to student data on privacy and legal requirements.

Furthermore, any AI tools employed by our district undergo security assessments before deployment to identify and mitigate potential vulnerabilities. We implement robust access controls, encryption, and logging measures to prevent unauthorized access to AI systems and data. Regularly monitoring AI systems for security breaches or anomalies is conducted, and clear protocols for securely decommissioning or deleting AI systems and associated data are established when no longer needed.

Ethical AI Use

Ethical considerations are also paramount when using AI technologies within our district. We have established clear criteria and guidelines for determining when and how AI systems should be employed, ensuring student privacy and autonomy are respected. Additionally, AI systems are rigorously evaluated for potential biases and discriminatory outcomes, with measures in place to mitigate such risks. The decision-making process of AI systems is transparent and explainable, allowing for accountability and oversight.

Governance & Accountability

Governance and accountability are essential aspects of our approach to AI technology usage. The Informational Technology and Educational Technology departments oversee the development, deployment, and monitoring of AI systems within the district to ensure adherence to established policies and procedures. These departments also serve as the point of contact for addressing ethical concerns or breaches related to AI use and are responsible for investigating and resolving such issues. Regular training and awareness programs are conducted for all staff using and managing AI systems to promote a culture of ethical AI practices.

Section 4: Minimize Bias & Promote Fairness

The equitable and unbiased use of AI tools within our district is a core principle guiding our implementation efforts. We recognize potential bias in AI systems and are committed to proactively mitigating these risks, ensuring fairness and inclusivity for all students and staff. By implementing the measures described below, we aim to ensure that AI tools are utilized ethically and responsibly, fostering a fair and inclusive learning environment for all students within our district.

Promoting Equitable and Inclusive Learning

To promote equitable and inclusive learning environments, we prioritize selecting and implementing AI tools that address the diverse needs of our student population. This involves selecting tools catering to different learning preferences, language abilities, and cultural backgrounds, ensuring all students can access personalized learning experiences tailored to their needs.

Data Diversity

In addition to selecting appropriate AI tools, we are committed to ensuring that AI-powered assessments are culturally responsive and bias-free. This entails implementing measures to evaluate and mitigate any biases in assessment tools, ensuring they accurately measure student performance across diverse demographics.

Furthermore, we recognize the importance of utilizing diverse datasets in developing and operating AI tools. By providing datasets that accurately reflect the demographics of our student population and the broader community, we can minimize the risk of bias and ensure that AI systems offer equitable outcomes for all students.

Bias Training and Awareness

Training and awareness initiatives are also essential components of our approach to addressing bias and promoting fairness in AI tool usage. We will raise awareness of different forms of bias and equip educators with the skills to critically evaluate AI tools for potential biases.

Additionally, we engage educational partners, including students, staff, and parents, in the monitoring and evaluation process to ensure that diverse perspectives are considered and that AI tools are used to benefit all school community members.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of AI tools within our district will be conducted regularly to identify evidence of bias, with protocols in place to take corrective actions as needed. Engagement with stakeholders, including students, staff, and parents, will be integral to this process, ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered and AI tools are utilized to benefit all school community members.

Section 5: Transparent, Accountable, and Responsible Use

Ensuring transparency and accountability in AI technologies is paramount for building trust and facilitating responsible deployment within our district. We promote transparency and accountability by facilitating clear communication, disclosing information, and implementing oversight and review mechanisms. These measures aim to foster trust and confidence among stakeholders, ensuring the responsible deployment of AI tools for the benefit of our students and staff.

Transparency & Disclosure

Transparency and disclosure are central to our approach to using AI technology. To promote transparency, we will disclose information regarding AI technologies, including algorithms, data sources, and decision-making criteria. We will also make this information available to educational partners to ensure understanding and accountability.

Accountability Mechanisms

Additionally, accountability mechanisms are established to ensure the responsible and ethical use of AI technologies within our district. Regular audits are conducted to assess the performance, fairness, and potential biases of AI systems used in the district. Vendors and service providers using AI technologies must regularly report their AI systems' performance, data sources, and decision-making processes. A dedicated channel is established for students, parents, staff, and community members to report concerns or complaints about using AI technologies, with all reports promptly investigated and addressed.

Responsible Use

Ensuring the well-being and safety of our students is our top priority when integrating AI technologies within our district. We are dedicated to aligning AI tools with student safety, privacy, and inclusivity principles, implementing measures to mitigate potential negative impacts on student well-being. By prioritizing student safety and well-being and designing AI technologies with accessibility and inclusivity in mind, we aim to foster a positive and supportive learning environment where all students can thrive and succeed.

Inspectable, Explainable, and Overridable

We must also provide effective AI models that consider the needs of teachers, students, and their families. AI models need to be able to explain their decisions. Some AI models can recognize patterns and take action but cannot explain how they connect the pattern and the action. This lack of explainability is not suitable for teaching. Teachers need to understand how an AI model analyzes a student's work and why it recommends a specific tutorial, resource, or next step to the student. They also need to be able to trust the AI model and identify where it tends to make poor decisions. Being able to see and evaluate automated decisions, as well as intervene and override decisions when necessary, is important for teachers. This is especially crucial when unfair influence or bias in the AI system's decisions might occur. Again, we always want to keep humans in the loop when we use AI for classroom instruction and student learning.

Section 6: Educator Training & Support

Preparing educators for the effective and responsible use of AI tools is crucial for maximizing their benefits within our district. We are dedicated to offering comprehensive training and ongoing support to ensure educators have the knowledge, skills, and resources to leverage AI technologies in educational settings effectively. Through this support, we aim to empower educators to utilize AI technologies to enhance teaching and learning experiences, foster student engagement and achievement, and adequately prepare students for success in an AI-driven world.

Professional Development Opportunities

Professional development opportunities are provided to enhance educators' AI literacy and proficiency. Workshops, seminars, and training sessions are organized to familiarize educators with AI tools and their applications in classroom instruction. Specialized training programs are offered to ensure that educators understand the ethical implications of AI technologies and how to address them in educational settings. Collaboration with external experts and organizations is encouraged to provide educators access to the latest research and best practices in AI education.

Education and Training on Ethical Principles

Education and training on ethical principles relevant to AI are incorporated into professional development programs to ensure educators understand the ethical considerations associated with AI technologies in educational settings. Topics such as fairness, transparency, privacy, and bias are covered to help educators make informed decisions about the selection, implementation, and use of AI tools in the classroom. Curriculum integration strategies are provided to help educators incorporate discussions about ethical issues related to AI into their instructional practices, fostering critical thinking and ethical decision-making skills among students.

Ongoing Support and Resources

Ongoing support and resources are available to educators to assist them in effectively integrating AI technologies into their instructional practices. A support system is established to provide educators with technical assistance, troubleshooting, and guidance on using AI tools in the classroom. Curated resources, including lesson plans, instructional materials, and online tutorials, are made available to educators to facilitate the integration of AI technologies into their teaching practices.

Research and Development

To improve the effectiveness, safety, and reliability of AI models used in conjunction with vendors and educational partners, it is essential for Research and Development efforts to prioritize making these AI models more context-sensitive. Although AI has the potential to discern patterns beyond human perception by processing vast amounts of data and variables, it lacks the inherent ability to understand contextual cues in the same way humans do. Therefore, ongoing professional development and research should focus on enhancing AI's capacity to comprehend and function within diverse educational settings effectively. This will enable the identification of specific areas where AI can be most relevant and impactful in academic contexts.