Ferndale Area School District

Book	Policy Manual
Section	800 Operations
Title	Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education
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Purpose

The district recognizes the potential that Generative Artificial Intelligence (Generative AI) offers in enhancing educational opportunities, streamlining operations and preparing students for a future that demands adaptability, critical thinking and digital literacy. When incorporated and used in a responsible and ethical manner, Generative AI can support a dynamic working and learning experience.

This policy addresses guidelines for the proper management and responsible use of Generative AI in the district's educational environment.

Authority

The Board directs that the use of Generative AI in the educational environment shall be limited to approved educational purposes and shall comply with applicable state and federal laws, regulations, Board policies, administrative regulations and school rules including, but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), as well as Board policies related to acceptable use of computers and network resources, student and staff conduct, copyright protections, student records, personnel records, bullying and cyberbullying, nondiscrimination and harassment, data security and staff and student expression.[1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10][11][12][13][14][15][16][17][18][19][20][21][22][23][24][25]

The availability of access to Generative AI tools and resources by students and staff does not imply endorsement by the district of the Generative AI tool or resource, nor does the district guarantee the accuracy of the information received from Generative AI tools or resources. The district shall not be responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged or unavailable when using a Generative AI tool or resource.

The district shall not be responsible for the dissemination, replication or alteration of information or data input by any student or staff into any Generative AI tool or resource. Nothing in this policy is intended to limit the district's obligations under applicable law or regulations.

The district shall not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access or use of Generative AI tools or resources.

Definitions

AI literacy – the ability to understand, use and interact with AI systems effectively, efficiently and responsibly.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) – technology designed to mimic human intelligence, such as analyzing data, recognizing patterns and making decisions.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (Generative AI) – an advanced subset of AI that is capable of generating new content from learned data and pattern recognition across various mediums such as text, code, images, audio and video data. Generative AI is the focus of this policy.

Open-source AI – AI tools and resources that are built on publicly accessible platforms and use and share data among all users who access the platform, both within and outside of the district.

Delegation of Responsibility

The district shall make every effort to ensure that Generative AI tools and resources are used responsibly by students and staff. The effective integration of Generative AI into education requires a collaborative effort between administration, teachers, staff, students and families.

The district shall inform staff, students, parents/guardians and other users about this policy by posting on the district website and by other efficient methods.

Generative AI tools and resources used in district schools and programs shall be evaluated and authorized on an ongoing basis for age-appropriateness, bias, privacy protections, accessibility standards and data security by the following individuals:[8][9][10][26]

1. Superintendent.
2. Building principals.
3. Solicitor, as needed.
4. Director of Information Technology or Technology Staff.
5. Director of Curriculum and Instruction.
6. Other school staff may report.

The Board directs that only district-authorized Generative AI tools and resources may be used on district computers and in district schools and programs. Staff shall consult the district's list of authorized Generative AI tools and resources prior to implementation in the educational environment. Unauthorized Generative AI tools and resources may not adhere to required data privacy, monitoring and security standards.[3][24]

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for developing procedures to address student safety measures and to determine whether Generative AI tools and resources are being used for purposes prohibited by law, Board policy or for accessing sexually explicit materials.[2][24][27][28][29][30][31]

The district solicitor, in coordination with the Director of Information Technology, shall evaluate new and existing vendor contracts, collective bargaining agreements and related agreements for impacts related to district use of Generative AI.[32][33]

Guidelines

AI Literacy

Staff –

The district shall provide staff with professional development opportunities addressing the effective and safe integration of Generative AI to enhance teaching and learning. Professional development opportunities may include, but not be limited to:

1. Ethical use of Generative AI.
2. The capabilities and limitations of Generative AI.
3. Critical analysis of content produced by Generative AI.
4. How to monitor and evaluate student inputs into Generative AI systems.
5. The parameters established by the district for integrating Generative AI tools into classroom instructional design.

Beyond formal professional development opportunities, the district encourages staff to explore Generative AI to discover lesson plan ideas, create templates or assessments and to generate ideas for the personalization of student learning. Generative AI tools and resources shall be used in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and this Board policy.

Students –

The district may provide training for students, which may include, but not be limited to:

1. Establishment of expectations regarding the ethical use of Generative AI.
2. The capabilities and limitations of Generative AI.
3. Critical analysis of content produced by Generative AI.
4. How to disclose use and cite Generative AI resources.
5. The importance of not disclosing personally identifiable information when using an open-source Generative AI tool or resource.

Ethical Considerations

The district shall prioritize the educational value in the use of Generative AI tools and resources and will take measures to mitigate associated risks. The district shall only authorize Generative AI systems and platforms appropriately equipped for preventing breach of personally identifiable information and addressing the district's prohibitions against discrimination, harassment, bullying, bias and access to sexually explicit materials, or those which are harmful to minors or prohibited by Board policy.[8][9][10][20][24]

The district's technology protection measures shall be enforced during use of Generative AI on district computers and network resources.[24]

The district shall provide additional training, when needed, and address accessibility needs to provide equitable access to Generative AI tools and resources for students and staff including, but not limited to, individuals with disabilities and English Learner students.[8][9][10][11][34]

The district prohibits the use of Generative AI in making decisions regarding employee recruitment, hiring, retention, promotion, transfer, evaluation, demotion or dismissal.[10]

The district prohibits the use of Generative AI in making final determinations on student assessments and evaluations.[8][9][11][14][35][36]

Academic Integrity –

The use of Generative AI by students to complete assignments or assessments shall only be allowed to the extent stated and outlined by the teacher for the individual assignment or course. Students shall be notified in advance of the parameters for use of Generative AI in assignments and assessments.

Teachers shall outline use of Generative AI tools and resources in their required lesson plans.[37]

Students and staff shall receive training and be expected to appropriately cite original sources for quotations, facts, information, statistics, dates or the paraphrased statements of others. A Generative AI resource shall be cited when the system's generated content is quoted, paraphrased or otherwise used in the student's work. Lack of citation to AI generated work improperly implies that the work is entirely that of the student.[16]

The Board permits the use of AI detection tools as an aid to identify potential academic integrity issues, but prohibits reliance on results from AI detection tools as the sole determination of academic integrity.

Copyright –

Individuals using Generative AI tools and resources must comply with federal law and Board policy regarding the duplication or use of copyrighted materials.[4]

AI-Generated Content Verification -

Individuals using Generative AI tools and resources have a responsibility to apply proper oversight and evaluation of generated information. Generative AI tools shall not be the sole determining factor used to make decisions related to student learning, assessment, academic integrity or conduct. Staff and students should critically evaluate content produced by Generative AI for potential biases or inaccuracies and understand the importance of cross-referencing with trusted resources.

Evaluation and Monitoring of Generative AI

Administrators, network supervisors and teaching staff shall establish processes for ongoing evaluation and monitoring of Generative AI tools and resources used within the district and on district computers and network resources, including periodic assessments of the impact on student learning.

Issues identified during the evaluation and monitoring process shall be reported to but not limited to the following:

1. Superintendent.
2. Assistant Superintendent.
3. Building principal.
4. Director of Information Technology.
5. Any member of the Administrative Team.

Consequences for Inappropriate Use

Failure to comply with this policy or district rules regarding appropriate use of Generative AI including, but not limited to, acceptable use of computer and network resources, shall result in usage restrictions, loss of access privileges, disciplinary action and/or referral to legal authorities. [12][16][21][24][38]

Students and staff must immediately report any violations or suspicious activity to the building principal or designee.

Users of Generative AI shall be responsible for damages to the equipment, systems, platforms and software resulting from deliberate, malicious or willful acts.[24][39]

Illegal use of Generative AI; intentional modification without permission or damage to files or data belonging to others; copyright violations; and theft of services shall be reported to the appropriate legal authorities for possible prosecution.

This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property or during nonschool hours to the same extent as provided in Board policy on student discipline.[12][16][24][38]

Legal

1. 24 P.S. 4601 et seq
2. 47 U.S.C. 254
3. 15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq
4. 17 U.S.C. 101 et seq
5. 20 U.S.C. 1232g
6. 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq
7. 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq
8. Pol. 103
9. Pol. 103.1
10. Pol. 104
11. Pol. 113
12. Pol. 113.1
13. Pol. 113.4
14. Pol. 114
15. Pol. 216
16. Pol. 218
17. Pol. 220
18. Pol. 237
19. Pol. 247
20. Pol. 249
21. Pol. 317
22. Pol. 320
23. Pol. 324
24. Pol. 815
25. Pol. 830
26. Pol. 105
27. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 5903
28. 18 Pa. C.S.A. 6312
29. 18 U.S.C. 2256

30. 20 U.S.C. 7131

31. 47 CFR 54.520

32. Pol. 308

33. Pol. 818

34. Pol. 138

35. Pol. 113.3

36. Pol. 127

37. Pol. 111

38. Pol. 233

39. 24 P.S. 4604

18 Pa. C.S.A. 2709

29 U.S.C. 794

28 CFR Part 35

28 CFR Part 36

34 CFR Part 99

34 CFR Part 104

34 CFR Part 300

Pol. 304

Pol. 824