Students' AI Usage: What Parents Should Know

Artificial intelligence (AI) can be a helpful learning tool, but it's important for students to know when and how to use it. In Virginia Beach City Public Schools, students may only use approved AI when a teacher gives permission and clear directions. Sometimes, its use will not be permitted, meaning students must complete tasks on their own and other times they may have increased opportunities.

0

High School Level 0: No AI Usage

- Students use their own knowledge, class notes, and research--without any AI help.
- Assignments are designed to show only what the student(s) knows and can do independently.
- Using AI on these assignments would be considered cheating.

1

High School Level 1: Limited AI Usage

- Only approved AI tools may be used, and only when a teacher gives clear directions.
- AI can be used for small steps in the process (like brainstorming or comparing ideas), but the student is still doing most of the work and is responsible for the final product.
- Students must communicate with their teacher about when and how they used AI on an assignment.
- Students are expected to think about whether the AI's response makes sense and be ready to explain their own thinking to the teacher or classmates.

2

High School Level 2: Expanded AI Usage

- Only approved AI tools may be used, and only when the teacher has approved it for an assignment.
- AI can be used for more complex help, like outlining ideas, analyzing information, or suggesting examples.
- The student still makes the final decisions but is working *with* AI more directly and has to check its accuracy and appropriateness.
- Students must communicate with their teacher about when and how they used AI.
- Students should be ready to explain how AI helped and why they chose to use it for their assignment.

Supporting Responsible AI Use at Home

1. **Stick to the School Guidelines:** Even if your student has other devices, remind them to use AI only when it has been approved by their teacher for a specific assignment.
2. **Keep the Focus on Learning:** Encourage your student to start with their own thinking and use school resources (notes, research, teacher directions) as their main tools.
3. **Promote Honesty:** Encourage your student to acknowledge their use of AI, and remind them that they should only use AI when it is permitted by their teacher.
4. **Support Balance:** Encourage breaks from screens and time for your student to work independently, building confidence in their own skills.

By working together, we can ensure all students have the same opportunities to learn to use AI in thoughtful, responsible ways.