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To: Boston School Committee
From: Lisa Irey, Chief Technology Officer
CC: Mary Skipper, Superintendent
Subject: Update on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

This memo provides an update on the district's use of artificial intelligence (AI) and the future direction of incorporating AI into our work at all levels of the organization.

1. Where BPS Stands on AI Today

We are thinking about AI and Generative AI thoughtfully in partnership with various departments.

Over the past three years, Boston Public Schools has taken deliberate steps to understand, guide, and responsibly scale the use of generative artificial intelligence, or GenAI (AI that is designed to create content such as text or images), across our district. We recognize both the opportunities AI and GenAI present and the importance of protecting student data, academic integrity, and staff judgment. Our work is guided by these core values:

- Human-Centric Approach
- Equity & Inclusion
- Responsible Use
- Purposeful Use
- Transparency & Academic Integrity

We have launched BPS AI Guidelines for Staff and Student Use and the BPS AI Hub, a website that centralizes all our resources.

These resources help teachers, instructional staff, school leaders, and central office staff understand:

- Guidelines for appropriate professional and instructional use of AI and GenAI, in line with national practices in K-12 education
- Which AI tools are approved for staff and/or student use
- How to use AI responsibly and ethically
- What protections and assurances families should expect
- Student AI use in the classroom

- Impactful ways that teachers and instructional staff are using AI tools to support students

We have created internal structures to manage AI responsibly through:

- A cross-functional AI working group (Digital Learning, Data, Cybersecurity, Legal, Teaching & Learning)
- Guidelines for staff and student use
- Professional learning and support for staff and educators on AI literacy and responsible use of GenAI tools, including those for instructional planning
- A process for reviewing and approving AI tools
- Intentional selection of AI tools that safeguard student data and support instructional practice

Spotlight on Solara AI (a purpose-driven AI chatbot within Panorama Student Success):

BPS has been using Panorama Student Success to streamline data access for educators, strengthen MTSS implementation, and support consistent instructional decision-making across schools for many years.

In the early months of 2025, Panorama's Solara generative AI tool was launched to a small pilot cohort of MTSS (Multi-Tier Systems of Support) Coordinators following an initial training. These pilot users developed initial use cases, prompt architecture, and feedback on the tool. After additional training for school leaders, educators, AI Fellows, and academic content leaders in the spring of 2025, the platform was opened to all BPS staff in August 2025. BPS is especially excited about Solara's ability to connect real-time student data with High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) and BPS-curated resources, empowering educators to make immediate instructional pivots in the classroom and by using data that truly informs instruction and student support. This work has also positioned BPS as a national model for how educators can use AI to strengthen instruction and improve student outcomes.

2. Where We Are Headed

Our vision is to build a safe and equitable AI ecosystem that supports teaching, learning, and district operations.

Over the next 12–18 months, our focus includes:

- **Task Forces/Working Groups:** Developing groups that test and model purposeful and responsible use cases of AI for instruction, data, leadership, operations, and student learning to share with the larger district.
- **Teacher Support:** Creating structured professional learning pathways for responsible AI use in implementing HQIM and supporting all students, including multilingual learners and students with disabilities.
- **Student AI Literacy:** Developing age-appropriate standards so students understand how AI works, its limitations, and how to use it ethically.
- **Operations:** Exploring AI for operational tasks such as those involving automation and pattern recognition, while also keeping humans at the center for ensuring ethical and accurate application.
- **Equitable Access:** Ensuring all schools benefit from tools that support academic outcomes.

3. Examples of School and Teacher Application of GenAI Tools

Several schools are thoughtfully piloting Generative AI tools in ways that support student learning. These pilots are small, safe, and aligned to teacher-led innovation. They provide valuable learning that will shape districtwide practice.

The Eliot K–8 Innovation School: The Eliot has been an early adopter of instructional AI. Teachers are using AI with careful structure and oversight to support student writing and feedback cycles. Teachers report that their use of AI has helped them support students in building their confidence as writers.

BPS AI Fellows Program: In Spring 2025, 36 educators across grade levels participated in this stipended program by piloting AI tools, engaging in professional learning with peers, and designing case studies around a problem of practice. Teachers in this program completed projects using BPS-approved tools such as Solara to:

- Design math interventions
- Create strategic small groups based on student literacy data
- Suggest small group structures, co-teacher roles and responsibilities, and adapt curriculum to specific students based on past assessment performance

Overall, our approach to AI will continue to center purposeful and responsible use and ensure that members of our community are informed about our practices and have the opportunity to build their AI literacy skills. We will send for your consideration and approval an updated Superintendent Circular around Acceptable Technology Use coming Spring 2026.