

Mountain Lakes School District Artificial Intelligence Plan 2026–2027

District Vision, Responsible Innovation, and Human-Centered Learning



By: David Santos & Dennis Posner

Why an AI Plan?

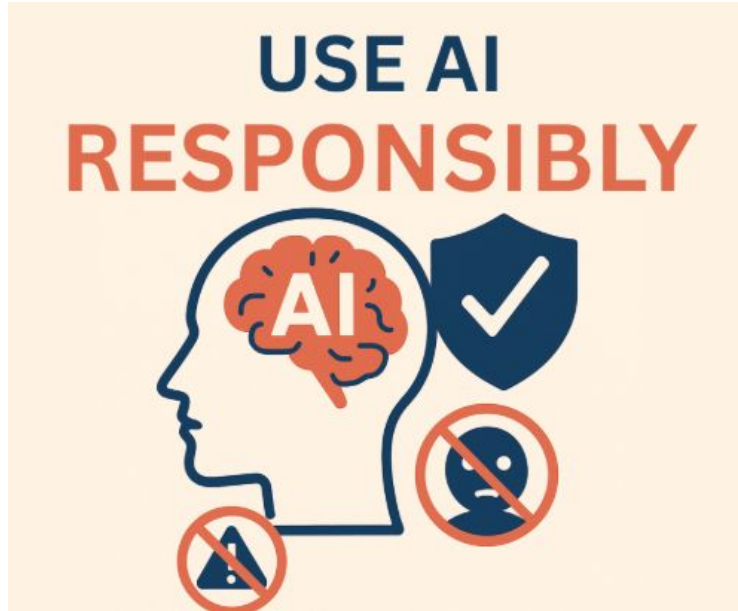
- Provide clear expectations for responsible AI use
- Support teaching, learning, and operational efficiency
- Protect student privacy, safety, and academic integrity
- Ensure consistent district-wide guidance



District Vision & Guiding Principles

- Teaching and learning remain fundamentally human endeavors
- AI should enhance learning, not replace student thinking
- Student voice, creativity, and critical thinking remain central
- Policies and practices will evolve with technology

Responsible & Ethical AI Use



- Focus on transparency, integrity, and accountability
- AI misuse, bullying, deepfakes, and deception are prohibited
- Human oversight is required for all AI-supported work
- Student and staff intellectual property must be protected

Privacy, Security & Safeguards

- Compliance with FERPA, COPPA, PPRA, and CIPA
- District review process for all AI tools
- Protection of personally identifiable information (PII)
- Ongoing monitoring and risk management

AI in Teaching & Learning

- Support differentiated instruction and accessibility
- Assist with lesson planning, assessment, and feedback
- Enhance communication and operational efficiency
- AI complements educator expertise - it does not replace it

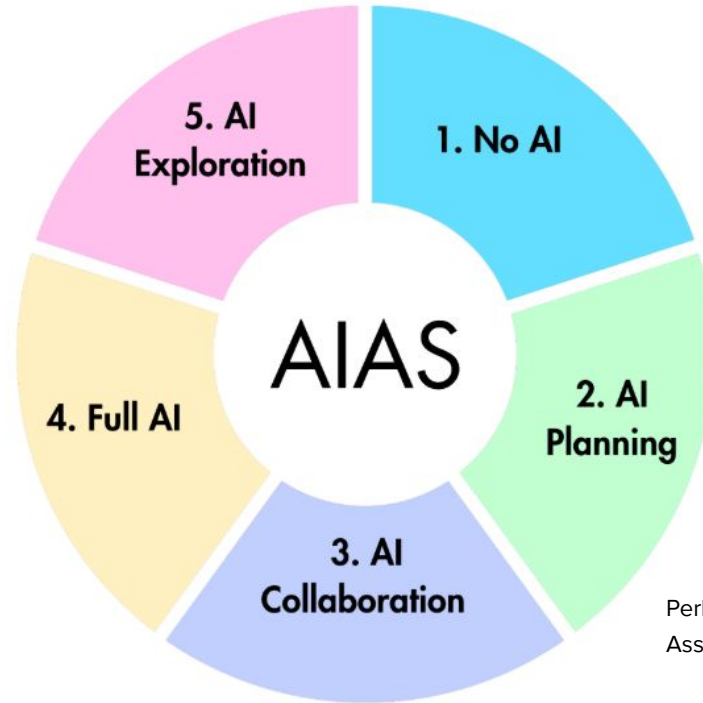


Student Expectations

- Use AI responsibly and transparently
- Verify outputs for accuracy and bias
- Protect personal and sensitive information
- Maintain academic integrity and originality



The AI Assessment Scale

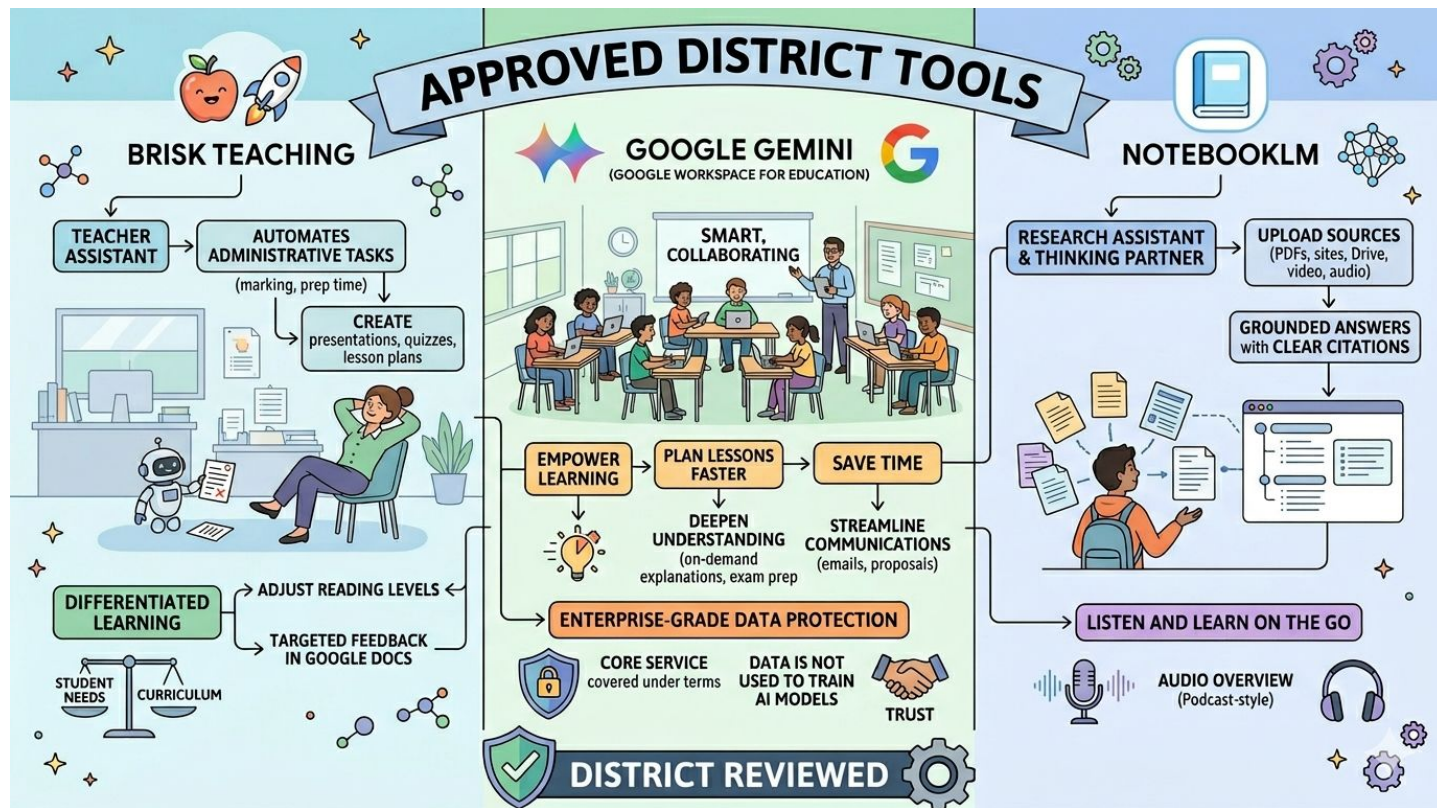


Perkins, Furze, Roe, & MacVaugh (2024). The AI Assessment Scale

Grade-Level Progression

GUIDE TO AI IN EDUCATION: GRADE-BY-GRADE PROGRESSION		
Grade Band	Focus Area	What This Looks Like
K-3 	 AWARENESS OF TECHNOLOGY & AUTOMATION	 • HANDS-ON LEARNING & PLAY-BASED ACTIVITIES • TECHNOLOGY USED SPARINGLY & WITH TEACHER GUIDANCE • TEACHERS DEMONSTRATE HOW TOOLS WORK, STUDENTS CREATE THEIR OWN IDEAS 
4-5 	 FOUNDATIONS OF AI & DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP	 • GUIDED, PURPOSEFUL USE OF DIGITAL TOOLS • TEACHERS MODEL HOW TO QUESTION AND CHECK ACCURACY • EMPHASIS ON RESPONSIBLE DIGITAL HABITS & BALANCE 
6-8 	 UNDERSTANDING HOW AI SYSTEMS LEARN & BIAS	 • EXPLORE HOW AI LEARNS FROM INFORMATION & CAN MAKE MISTAKES • USE AI FOR BRAINSTORMING, WITH CLEAR LIMITS • QUESTION RESULTS & DO NOT RELY ON AI AS ONLY SOURCE 
9-12 	 CRITICAL ANALYSIS, ETHICAL USE & CREATION	 • SUPPORT LEARNING THOUGHTFULLY, NOT A REPLACEMENT FOR OWN WORK • EVALUATE ACCURACY, IDENTIFY BIAS, USE RESPONSIBLY • ANALYZE OR DESIGN AI-SUPPORTED SOLUTIONS  

Approved AI Tools



Academic Integrity & Accountability

- Teachers define AI expectations for assignments
- Students disclose AI use when required
- AI detectors are not relied upon as sole evidence
- Certified educators maintain responsibility for grading

Next Steps

- Continue professional learning and staff training
- Refine guidance as technology evolves
- Monitor implementation and gather feedback
- Support innovation while maintaining district values
- Adjust Plan as needed for next year