



Bayonne Public Schools

Vision for the Use of Generative AI in Teaching and Learning

Introduction

The Bayonne Public School District acknowledges the increasing role of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) in education and society. When applied thoughtfully and responsibly, GenAI has the potential to enrich learning, strengthen critical thinking, and equip students for an ever-changing future. This vision statement, created collaboratively by educators, administrators, and members of the Bayonne Board of Education, reflects our collective commitment to using GenAI to enhance teaching, learning, and innovation throughout Bayonne Public Schools.

Artificial Intelligence District Team

Jolene Bergantino, Coord. of Data, Assmt. State & Fed. Programs

Tyler Blicharz, Technology Teacher

Tara Degnan, Director of Science

Dr. Karen Fiermonte, Principal

Tracie Fogu, Title 1 Interventionist

Kaitlin Hickey, ESEA Supervisor, Federal & State Programs

Geomara Martinez, Spanish Teacher

Dr. Karee McAndrew, Director of Technology

Craig Mellows, Social Studies Teacher

John Niesz, Superintendent

Dr. Wachera Ragland-Brown, Chief Academic Officer

Tanya Russell, ELA Teacher

Mathew Ruttler, Special Services Instructional Coach

Tara Soto, District Gifted & Talented Coach

Jessica Spiers, Early Childhood Teacher

Jennifer Vecchiarelli, Assistant Superintendent of Special Services

Marissa Wade, Math & Science Teacher

Heather Zalis, Assistant Principal

Our Mission

Bayonne Public Schools is committed to fostering student growth, achievement, and lifelong learning. This is best achieved when students and staff are engaged, reflective, and empowered to think critically and creatively.

Our district is dedicated to preparing students to thrive in an interconnected, diverse, and technology-driven world. We seek to equip learners with the knowledge, skills, and ethical foundations necessary to use AI responsibly, while ensuring that human creativity, empathy, and collaboration remain at the heart of education.

GenAI and Education

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) is a form of AI that produces new text, images, or data in response to prompts. By analyzing patterns in its training data, it generates original content that mirrors those patterns. As a rapidly advancing technology, GenAI is becoming increasingly embedded in our daily lives. While its rise has sparked concerns about academic integrity, Bayonne Public Schools has chosen not to restrict student access for two key reasons. First, limiting access to innovation is both impractical and inequitable, particularly for students who may not have these tools at home. Second, as educators, we have a responsibility to prepare students for college, careers, and life by teaching them how to use GenAI effectively and responsibly. This includes not only exploring its capabilities but also grappling with its ethical challenges, such as copyright, bias, and fairness.

GenAI offers powerful opportunities to enrich teaching and learning, but it must never substitute independent thinking or authentic work. Our guiding principle is clear: AI can support your thinking, but it should never do the thinking for you. Consequently, building critical skills for effective and ethical AI use is an educational priority for our schools.

Goals

- **Maintain a Human-Centered Approach:** While technology has the potential to enhance our lives, human creativity, connection, and collaboration are the most essential components of effective teaching and learning.
- **Develop Critical Thinkers:** Students will develop critical thinking skills and become discerning users of AI technology.
- **Foster Ethical Use:** A culture of responsible and ethical AI use will be fostered throughout the district.
- **Empower Effective Instruction:** Teachers will effectively integrate AI tools to improve instruction, personalize learning experiences, and encourage student ownership of their work.
- **Enhance Digital Literacy:** Students will become more skilled at understanding and evaluating digital information.

Ethical Responsibility

We remain firmly committed to upholding academic integrity. This commitment includes preventing academic dishonesty, recognizing potential biases in AI tools, and actively working to address them. All ideas must be properly attributed, facts carefully verified, and sources accurately cited. Ultimately, students and all AI users are accountable for the final work they produce, including any content created with the support of GenAI.

Stakeholder Responsibilities

Students

- Students are encouraged to use GenAI as a study aid with the understanding that GenAI may not always be accurate. Applications may include summarizing notes, creating study guides, and accessing additional practice questions or problems.
- Students can use GenAI on coursework only with teacher approval, understanding that allowable uses may vary by course, teacher, and assignment. These may include, but are not limited to, brainstorming, research assistance, and proofreading.
- Students are responsible for asking clarifying questions of the instructor when confused by the limits of GenAI use placed on an assignment.
- If its use is allowed on an assignment, students are expected to clearly document how GenAI tools were used according to the teacher's guidelines and expectations.
- Students are responsible for the final product, including content developed with GenAI, and must document their AI use and cite generated content properly. Failure to properly cite content attributed to another source is a violation of the academic integrity policy.

Teachers

- Teachers will determine appropriate applications of GenAI and clearly communicate expectations for student use. This includes discussing the capabilities and limitations of these tools and teaching students how to document their use of GenAI properly.
- Teachers will continue to foster critical thinking skills and promote the balanced use of AI tools while modeling and emphasizing responsible and ethical use.
- Teachers will reinforce that academic integrity is an ethical choice students must make and foster class discussions about the ethical use of GenAI.
- Teachers are encouraged to include content developed with GenAI, featuring proper documentation, when appropriate, providing clear and transparent models for students to follow.

Administration

- The administration will provide ongoing training for teachers on ethical and effective AI use.
- The administration will provide clear guidelines for student and teacher use of Gen AI. This will include the development of a standard method(s) for the documentation of AI tools used.
- The administration will provide families with information on how GenAI is used in our schools and resources to understand GenAI and help their children use it responsibly.

Families

- Families should read, understand, and discuss the district's vision for GenAI use and its academic integrity policy with their students.
- Families should encourage the ethical use of AI for learning and support their students' growth mindset by encouraging them to seek out the assistance of teachers when needed.

Community Members

- Adults who work with Bayonne Public School students are encouraged to read, understand, and support the district's vision for GenAI use and its academic integrity policy.

Continuous Learning

Because AI technology evolves rapidly, Bayonne Public Schools will regularly review and adapt this vision to reflect new developments and best practices, always with a spirit of optimism and innovation.

How GenAI Was Used in the Creation of this Document

In alignment with our principles, portions of this document were refined using AI tools (including ChatGPT and Gemini) to edit for clarity, tone, and conciseness. Final revisions and approval were made by Bayonne educators and administrators.

Privacy and Data Protection

The privacy of our students is paramount. Personally identifiable information (PII) shall not be submitted to any AI system.

Accessibility and Inclusion

The district is committed to ensuring that AI integration supports accessibility and inclusion. GenAI can be used to provide differentiated learning supports, such as adapting reading levels and creating alternative formats for diverse learners.

Review Process

This document is a living framework. Bayonne Public Schools will periodically review and update it to reflect evolving technologies and educational practices.