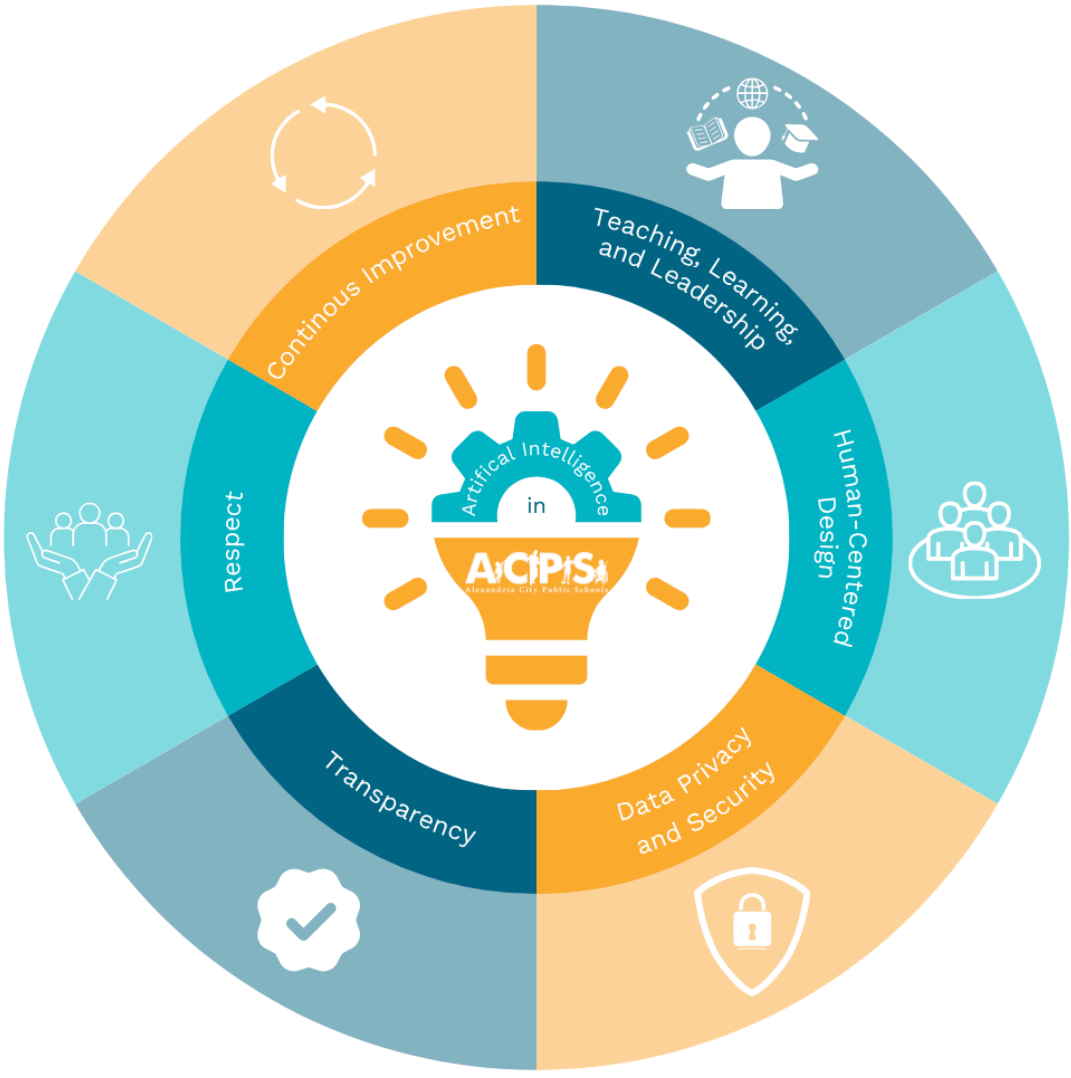
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Philosophy and Guiding Principles

Alexandria City Public Schools

This document includes the artificial intelligence (AI) Philosophy and outlines guiding principles for the use of AI in ACPS. Each principle includes a set of critical elements. Critical elements are characteristics that unpack the principle, and support alignment and implementation. They are not exhaustive; there may be other characteristics that align with the principles that are not outlined in this document. An ethical use element is included within each of the six guiding principles.



Artificial Intelligence Philosophy

Alexandria City Public Schools



Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications are increasingly prevalent in K-12 education. Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) embraces technological advancements that enhance teaching, learning, and leadership opportunities. AI is broadly defined by ACPS as “automation based on associations” (Department of Education, 2023), leveraging data or expert knowledge to drive outcomes.

While recognizing the potential of AI, ACPS understands that not all emerging technologies are equal. Balancing opportunities with potential risks is crucial. This commitment is reflected in the 2023–2028 ACPS Technology Plan, which emphasizes empowering staff to evaluate technologies with both curiosity and skepticism.

To guide decisions regarding AI, ACPS developed guiding principles and critical elements designed to ensure its thoughtful and ethical use. The guiding principles include:

- Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
- Human-Centered Design
- Data Privacy and Security
- Transparency
- Equity and Inclusion
- Continuous Improvement

ACPS is committed to the purposeful use of AI to support educational and operational goals while recognizing its limitations. AI-generated content, while valuable, is not infallible. It should enhance—rather than replace—the professional expertise of staff and the creativity of students.

As AI technologies evolve, ACPS remains dedicated to safeguarding the community’s data, maintaining privacy and security in compliance with local, state, and federal laws. Through this balanced approach, ACPS aims to responsibly harness AI’s potential while upholding the values of the ACPS Strategic Plan.

Teaching, Learning, and Leadership



Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) is committed to harnessing the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance teaching, learning, and leadership, while upholding high ethical standards.

1.1 Planning

AI supports planning for individualized learning pathways that include feedback and opportunities for authentic assessment of knowledge and skills.

1.2 Teaching

Teaching staff engage students in meaningful discussions regarding responsible use and decision-making regarding AI tools, investigating the sources and information for accuracy, relevance, and potential biases.

1.3 Learning

Generative AI tools are used to build upon human thought, inquiry, and creativity to support innovation.

1.4 Leadership

Generative AI tools are used to summarize data and provide feedback for the purposes of planning, coaching, and providing feedback to improve teacher practice.

1.5 Ethical Use

Ongoing professional development is provided for educators, leaders, and staff on the ethical use of AI, including best practices, potential biases, and the societal implications of AI in education.

Human-Centered Design

ACPS values human expertise and responsible decision making, positioning AI as a thought partner while continuing to prioritize human-centered interaction.



2.1 Human Agency

Humans retain agency and accountability for their work and decision-making.

2.2 Critical Thinking

AI tool usage enhances, rather than restricts or replaces, human critical thinking and creativity.

2.3 Well-being

AI tools are utilized to enhance social-emotional learning and support the digital well-being of all students.

2.4 Ethical Use

AI-driven recommendations or outputs are reviewed and approved by a human before implementation, especially in decision-making processes that impact students, staff, or families.

Data Privacy and Security



AI tools supported in ACPS are compliant with federal, state, and local laws, and ACPS policies that ensure privacy, security, and data protection for students, staff, and division systems.

3.1 Privacy

AI systems supported in ACPS have a data agreement with the Division

3.2 Balance

Decision makers balance innovation with security and risk when making purchasing decisions regarding AI tools.

3.3 Compliance

AI tools are compliant with state, federal, and local laws, as well as ACPS policies.

3.4 Disclosure

Contracted vendors disclose the use of AI in their products.

3.5 Ethical Use

Access to data processed by AI tools is clearly outlined and communicated, ensuring that students, staff, and families are informed about how their data is used, who can access it, and the procedures in place to control and protect it. Updates and notifications are shared when data usage or access protocols change.

Transparency



The ACPS community is aware of the Division's philosophy on AI, how tools can be used, and when/how the tools impact them.

4.1 Accessibility

The Division's philosophy of AI is posted on the ACPS website.

4.2 Communication

The Division provides clear appropriate communication and guidance regarding the use of Generative AI with families, students, and staff.

4.3 Creative Production

Staff and students using AI for creative production to access the works and ideas of others credit those works and ideas to the original source.

4.4 Ethical Use

Clear, accessible communication is provided when AI tools are used in ways that impact students, staff, or families. This includes notifying individuals when AI is involved in decision-making processes that affect them, explaining the purpose and scope of AI's role, and providing resources to understand how AI is integrated into the Division's work.

Respect



ACPS uses AI tools in ways to support a high quality education that is respectful and accessible to all students.

5.1 Respect

AI tools are used in ways that respect all student experiences.

5.2 Access

AI Tools are available in ways that are accessible to all students.

5.3 Bias

ACPS acknowledges bias may exist with emerging and evolving technologies, and encourages a healthy dose of critical evaluation of outputs.

5.4 Ethical Use

AI tools are designed or customized to meet the diverse needs of all students, including those with disabilities, English language learners, and students from various socio-economic backgrounds.

Continous Improvement



ACPS commits to fostering a culture of innovation and continuous improvement in its use of AI tools, encouraging creativity while evaluating educational impact and adapting the role of AI use in the Division over time.

6.1 Monitoring

The usage and impact of AI tools are actively monitored, with threats and opportunities identified and evaluated.

6.2 Review

Stakeholders have opportunities to review decisions and tool outputs and provide feedback.

6.3 Culture

Students and staff are empowered to learn about generative AI and how tools can be used effectively.

6.4 Evaluation

AI tools are thoroughly evaluated before used, and are leveraged in concordance with their purpose.

6.5 Ethical Use

continuous feedback mechanism is available for students, staff, and families to voice their experiences, concerns, and suggestions about AI tools in the classroom and leadership. Feedback is regularly assessed to ensure AI tools are meeting educational goals ethically and inclusively, and adjustments are made, as necessary, to enhance their effectiveness and fairness.