

Policies

Westerly Public Schools Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies Policy

No. 2315

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I. Rationale

This policy establishes guidelines for responsible use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) by students and staff in Westerly Public Schools (WPS) to maintain academic integrity and prevent plagiarism and cheating. AI is a powerful tool in education but should be used judiciously and in conjunction with human instructors who can provide context, guidance, and support essential for holistic learning.

II. Purpose

This policy establishes responsible integration of emerging technologies, inclusive of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at Westerly Public Schools (WPS). An emerging technology is a rapidly developing innovation that has not yet reached widespread adoption but holds the potential to fundamentally impact society, such as AI. In education, AI is a powerful tool that should be used judiciously and in conjunction with human instructors who can provide context and guidance and also support teaching and learning. These emerging technologies can increase efficiency and enhance the learning experience. Likewise, violations of academic integrity, such as plagiarism and cheating, continue to go against the district's mission and core values.

III. Policy

WPS is committed to promoting digital literacy, including the understanding of AI capabilities, limitations, and ethical considerations. Users must be aware of potential biases in AI systems and take steps to ensure fair and equitable outcomes. The district's use of AI aims to increase efficiency and enhance the learning experience. Students are encouraged, when appropriate, to use AI to enhance their learning experience, but not at the expense of developing crucial skills such as writing, problem-solving, and critical analysis. While WPS recognizes the potential for the use of AI to contribute to academic dishonesty, it also acknowledges the numerous benefits AI can bring to education. Therefore, age-appropriate use of AI within WPS will adhere to the limitations set forth in this policy and its accompanying protocol. All stakeholders are expected to uphold ethical standards, ensuring honesty and integrity, in all aspects of learning and as such, academic dishonesty is strictly prohibited. WPS acknowledges the increased importance of student AI literacy fluency in providing a comprehensive education and post-secondary workplace readiness.

IV. Appropriate Use

Copying language, structure, art, or ideas using AI and other emerging

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technologies to develop work products that does not reflect the student's own independent thoughts, ideas, or abilities is prohibited and subject to appropriate discipline. Falsification of work product with the use of AI will be treated as plagiarism and subject to discipline under the district's plagiarism, academic dishonesty and disciplinary policies and protocols and the student handbook. Teachers may utilize AI in the classroom consistent with this policy and related protocol. Students must follow any additional parameters set forth by their classroom teacher for use of AI. Furthermore, employees should not rely on AI for decisions that require professional judgment, particularly in the areas of decisions about students, IEP and 504 plan development, assessments and grading, surveillance and behavior, care and counseling, or to train AI models.

V. Development of protocol

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop a [protocol](#) to facilitate this policy.

References:

FERPA: <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/ferpa>

COPPA: <https://www.ftc.gov/legal-library/browse/rules/childrens-online-privacy-protection-rule-coppa>

CIPA: <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/childrens-internet-protection-act>

RIDE AI: <https://ride.ri.gov/students-families/AI>

NPS: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/13zeE3dsDzEuAxxp4wGicnNhAOqh7qB2/view>

Adopted: September 16, 2026