



Parent Coalition for Student Privacy



Why we need a moratorium on use of AI in NYC public schools

Leonie Haimson

Class Size Matters and Parent Coalition for Student Privacy

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What is Generative AI?

- Type of artificial intelligence that can create new content, such as text, images, music, videos, and code, based on collecting and processing existing data
- Large Language models (LLMs) are a specific type of Gen AI that generates text or spoken words to answer questions, solve problems, and approximate how humans write and speak
- LLMs use a technique which predicts the next word in a sequence based on past patterns
- Examples: Chat GPT [Open AI], Claude [Anthropic], Google Gemini, Perplexity, MS Co-Pilot, DeepSeek [Chinese company]
- Many of these tools are now embedded in ed tech programs used in NYC schools

Risk to student privacy

- **Most** AI programs collect and data-mine personal student information to improve their products, in violation of the state student privacy law, [Education Law 2D](#) and its [regulations](#);
- **One** commonly used products in NYC schools is Chat GPT, even though its vendor Open AI [admits](#) that their products have “*the potential to be used ...to identify private individuals when augmented with outside data*”
- **Yet** [growing numbers of teachers in NYC](#) use AI programs to grade & give feedback to student work, write curriculum & create Individualized Education Programs for students with disabilities, which contain very sensitive personal information;

Risks to student learning including their cognitive development, critical thinking & creativity

- One recent study shows that the more time students spent with AI programs, the worse they did on their assessments
- AI acts as a “crutch,” preventing them from fully engaging with or understanding the material
- Another article showed "a significant negative correlation between frequent AI tool usage in educational settings” and students’ critical thinking abilities;
- Yet another recent study suggested that the use of AI undermines student creativity & encourages group thinking

Conclusions of recent Brookings Institute report

- Researchers held interviews, focus groups, and consulted with over 500 students, teachers, parents, education leaders, and technologists across 50 countries
- They also reviewed over 400 studies,
- They concluded that at this point, “***the risks of utilizing generative AI in children’s education overshadow its benefits.***”

Algorithms used by AI have been shown to have embedded biases

- Many experts including Open AI [point out](#) that the algorithms used by AI products can “*reinforce & reproduce specific biases & worldviews, including harmful stereotypical & demeaning associations for certain marginalized groups.*”
- [A recent study](#) found racial bias in AI-generated behavior intervention programs used by teachers
- [Another article](#) concluded that many AI systems feature systematic “harms of omission, subordination, and stereotyping,” known to trigger psychological harm to affected minorities

Risks to student mental health & social skills

- AI programs and especially chatbots have been shown to pose significant risks to the mental health and social development of children and teens,
- In some cases, relationships developed between children and chatbots have contributed to their committing suicide
- The increased use of AI in schools has to potential of undermining the skills and habits necessary for collaboration, debate, and the human interaction central to a quality education;

AI programs often offer false or misleading information, known as “hallucinations”, with error rates of up to 79%;

AI Model	Hallucination Rate
Perplexity	37%
Copilot	40%
Perplexity Pro	45%
ChatGPT Search	67%
Deepseek Search	68%
Gemini	76%
Grok-2 Search	77%
Grok-3 Search	94%

Source: [Columbia Journalism Review](#), March 2025. Responses where no answer was provided were not considered a hallucination.

Harming the environment & increasing electric rates

- Expanding use of AI nationwide has led to a surge in construction of huge data centers needed to process all the data
- These data centers rely on an increased use of electricity, causing electricity rates to soar.
- They also use fresh water for cooling, leading to water shortages in many cases
- Worse yet, they are causing a rapid increase of carbon emissions, exacerbating the climate crisis
- Over [12 new data centers](#) have applied to join the electricity grid in NYS

These concerns & more
have led to a growing
backlash against AI
nationwide –



Many AI products are currently used in NYC schools

- AI programs include HMH's Writeable. Its [privacy agreement](#) on DOE website links to [webpage](#) which states that the data will be used for “**product improvement**” which violates Ed Law 2D.
- HMH “partners” with Amira, which collects student voices, considered especially sensitive biometric data.
- [About biometric data, NYSED says](#): “***schools must consider the privacy implications thereof; the impact on civil rights, if any; the effectiveness of the biometric tool; and parental input.***”
- MagicSchool AI programs are used in many NYC schools and offers a product that teachers can use to create IEPs.
- Their [Privacy Agreement](#) says their AI sub-contractors including OpenAI, Anthropic, Perplexity.ai and Google Gemini among others

Opposition growing as is AI expansion in NYC schools

- Concerns are rising in NYC among parents, students, and teachers, about the negative impacts of AI
- Result: Panel for Educational Policy rejected contracts for AI products four times in recent months
- Yet DOE allows schools to use these products anyway and is encouraging the expanded use of AI in schools without any guardrails
- Some teachers have asked students to use off-the shelf AI products like Chat GPT, whose privacy policy says should NEVER be used by any student under 18.
- Recently DOE posted links to new many new AI programs on the TeachHub site, including HMH Waggle and Google Gemini, encouraging their use by teachers and students

Proposal for a new AI high school

- DOE has proposal to create Next Gen HS, new AI high school to be sited in Lower Manhattan, to voted on by the PEP on April 29.
- The principal of the school said students will utilize Google's new, AI-powered Skills Platform.
- Yet the Platform's privacy policy says student personal data can be used to send users promotional information - which violates the state law
- It says the data may be shared with unnamed "business partners"
- *Also says their "services are not intended for use by children, and you must be over the age of 18 to use the Services"*

What's happening to minimize AI risks to NYC students?

- In June 2025, Chancellor Ramos appointed a Working Group on AI to propose guidelines and guardrails for the use of AI
- Yet our Working Group was sidelined and [stonewalled](#) by DOE, which refused even to provide a list of AI products already used in schools along with their privacy policies, claiming that had non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) with these companies
- Meanwhile, the DOE has recently released an [AI guidance](#) with input from their AI Advisory Council, which includes reps from the ed tech industry.
- Though the DOE promised that the Working Group would be provided with an opportunity to give input on the guidance before it was released, they did not.
- The guidance provides [no additional checks](#) to ensure data privacy despite the numerous DOE data breaches and illegal uses of student data by vendors that have already occurred
- It doesn't even claim to have assessed the potentially negative impacts of AI on student learning, critical thinking, creativity, mental health, or potential algorithmic biases, nor its negative impact on the environment.
- Some of those issues the guidance says they will have thought on by June; others unmentioned.

That's why we need a moratorium on the use of AI in the classroom now!

- Our coalition's petition at <https://tinyurl.com/petitionAImoratorium> has been signed by nearly 2,000 parents, educators and students
- It calls for a two-year moratorium so that rigorous protections can be developed to minimize AI's documented risk to student privacy, their cognitive development, creativity, social skills, mental health and the environment – with real public input this time.
- The national organization Fairplay has also released a letter calling for a five-year moratorium on the use of AI in education, endorsed by over 200 organizations and experts, including medical professionals.
- For more information, email us at info@studentprivacymatters.org
- Or check out our website at www.studentprivacymatters.org

