



DEL NORTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Abstract

This policy outlines the acceptable use of artificial intelligence (AI) at the Del Norte Unified School District (DNUSD). It emphasizes ethical considerations, data privacy, and responsible implementation to enhance learning and teaching while mitigating potential risks. The policy provides guidelines for AI use by teachers, staff, and students, including vetting procedures for AI tools, transparency requirements, and examples of permitted and prohibited uses. It also addresses internet safety, professional development, and legal compliance. This policy is a living document subject to regular review and updates to reflect advancements in AI technology and best practices in education.

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1. Overview

This policy outlines the acceptable use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and technologies within the Del Norte Unified School District (DNUSD) and its associated schools. DNUSD recognizes AI's potential to enhance learning, teaching, and administrative processes while acknowledging ethical considerations and potential risks. This policy promotes responsible and equitable AI implementation, prioritizing student learning, data privacy, and digital citizenship.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all employees, volunteers, coaches, and others who interact in an electronic format with students and employees of DNUSD. It also extends to all students enrolled in DNUSD schools and programs.

3. Goals

DNUSD aims to:

- Promote safe, ethical, and responsible AI use: Ensure AI is used equitably, transparently, and with respect for privacy and safety.
- Enhance learning and teaching: Leverage AI to support pedagogical practices, personalize learning, and improve efficiency.
- Develop digital literacy: Equip students and staff with the skills to critically evaluate and use AI effectively.
- Ensure compliance: Adhere to all applicable laws and regulations regarding AI in education.

4. Definitions

- Artificial Intelligence (AI): A system capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as learning, problem-solving, and decision-making.
- Machine Learning (ML): A type of AI that allows computers to learn from data without explicit programming.
- AI Tools: Software and applications that utilize AI technologies.

5. Guidelines for Use

5.1 AI Tool Vetting and Approval

Before using any AI tool, it must be vetted and approved by DNUSD to ensure it meets the following criteria:

- Data privacy: Complies with FERPA, COPPA, and other relevant privacy laws.
- Equity and accessibility: Offer tools equitably to all students, regardless of background or ability.
- Bias mitigation: Minimizes potential bias and discrimination.

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- Accuracy and reliability: Provides information as accurately as possible and minimizes incorrect information.
- Transparency: Clearly explains how the AI system utilizes and collects data.

5.2 Parental Consent

DNUSD will obtain parental consent before using AI tools that collect or process student data via the computer use policy signed each school year.

5.3 Teacher Use

- Pedagogical Alignment: AI should support sound pedagogical practices.
- Transparency: Inform students about the use of AI in the classroom, including its purpose and limitations.
- Critical Evaluation: Critically evaluate AI tools for accuracy, reliability, and bias.
- Professional Development: Participate in training on ethical and pedagogical AI use.

Permitted Examples: Formative assessment, personalized feedback, differentiated instruction.

Prohibited Examples: Relying solely on AI-generated content without review, high-stakes decisions (grade promotion, discipline).

5.4 Staff Use

- Efficiency: Use AI to streamline tasks, improve efficiency, and optimize resources.
- Data Security: Adhere to data security protocols and protect confidential information.
- Ethical Considerations: Use AI that is consistent with DNUSD values and ethical principles.
- Accountability: Remain responsible for decisions made based on AI insights.

Permitted Examples: Data analysis, communication, cybersecurity.

Prohibited Examples: Decisions impacting employee rights, surveillance without justification.

5.5 Student Use

- Academic Integrity: Use AI responsibly and ethically, avoiding plagiarism.
- Critical Thinking: Critically evaluate AI-generated information and use it as a starting point for their own analysis and creative thinking.
- Digital Citizenship: Use AI responsibly, respectfully, and safely, adhering to online safety guidelines.
- Data Privacy: Be aware of data privacy implications and protect personal information.

Permitted Examples: Research, writing assistance, creative expression.

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Prohibited Examples: Violating privacy or safety of others, Cheating, impersonation.

6. Enforcement and Accountability

- Violations of this policy may result in consequences for students and staff, including disciplinary action and/or legal action, as appropriate.
- The principal or designee may cancel or limit AI privileges for policy violations.

7. Internet Safety

- DNUSD is committed to providing a safe and productive learning environment. As part of this commitment, the district will implement protection measures on devices with AI access to minimize the risk of students encountering harmful or inappropriate material.
- The Superintendent or designee will regularly review and update internet safety procedures.

8. Training and Support

- DNUSD will provide ongoing professional development for teachers and staff on the ethical and pedagogical use of AI.
- Resources and support will be available to help students and staff use AI effectively and responsibly.

9. Policy Review and Updates

- This policy will be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect advancements in AI technology and best practices.

10. Communication and Transparency

- DNUSD will communicate this policy to all stakeholders and maintain transparency about AI use within the organization.

11. Resources

- International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE): <https://iste.org/ai>
- Common Sense Education:
<https://www.commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship/lesson/what-is-ai>
- AI4K12: <https://ai4k12.org/>
- California Department of Education: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/pl/aiincalifornia.asp>

12. Legal Compliance

DNUSD will comply with all applicable laws, including:

- California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA)

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- Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- California State AB 2876

13. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Q: How will DNUSD ensure equitable access to AI tools for all students?

A: DNUSD is committed to providing equal access to technology and resources for all students. This may involve providing devices, internet access, and support to students who need them. We will also prioritize AI tools accessible to students with disabilities.

- Q: How will DNUSD address concerns about AI bias and discrimination?

A: DNUSD will prioritize using AI tools vetted for bias and discrimination. Teachers and staff will receive training to critically evaluate AI tools and identify potential biases.

- Q: How can parents be involved in DNUSD's AI initiatives?

A: DNUSD will provide opportunities for parents to learn about AI in education and provide feedback on AI policies and practices. This may include parent workshops, informational sessions, and surveys.

- Q: What professional development opportunities will be available for teachers on AI in education?

A: DNUSD will offer ongoing professional development to support teachers in the ethical and pedagogical use of AI tools. This will include workshops, online courses, and collaboration opportunities.

- Q: How will DNUSD ensure that student data privacy will be protected when using AI tools?

A: DNUSD will comply with all applicable data privacy laws and regulations, including FERPA and COPPA. We will carefully vet all AI tools to ensure they meet our strict data privacy standards.

- Q: What are the consequences of violating this AI policy?

A: Violations of this policy may result in consequences for students and staff, including disciplinary action. For policy violations, the principal or designee may cancel or limit AI privileges. In cases of severe violations, further disciplinary measures, up to and including expulsion (for students) or termination (for staff), may be considered following existing District policies and procedures.

- Q: How can I stay informed about updates to this policy and DNUSD's AI initiatives?

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A: This policy will be reviewed and updated periodically. Updates will be communicated through the DNUSD website, newsletters, and other channels.

- Q: Who can I contact if I have questions or concerns about this policy?

A: If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the AI Taskforce at ai@DNUSD.org.

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