Ashland School District 5

Code: ~~IIBGC/GCLA/GDLA~~ IKJ
Adopted: 5/09/24; date

Artificial Intelligence

Preamble:
The Ashland School District Board recognizes the rapidly expanding role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in society and the global economy. Preparing students to navigate, evaluate, and ethically use AI is essential for success in learning, careers, and citizenship.

The Board believes AI, including generative AI, is a powerful educational and professional tool when used responsibly. The Board also recognizes that generative AI involves risks such as bias, inaccuracies, and hallucinations, and that its use must be conducted responsibly by staff and students.

This policy establishes guidance for safe, equitable, and ethical integration of AI technologies in teaching, learning, and district operations.

Policy Objectives
- Develop AI literacy at developmentally appropriate levels across all grade levels, K–12.
- Provide educators and staff with professional development to effectively and ethically use AI.
- Ensure equitable access to AI tools and resources.
- Promote responsible, safe, and ethical use of AI by all students and staff.
- Safeguard privacy, data protection, and intellectual property.
- Address potential bias, inaccuracy, and misuse associated with generative AI tools.
- Encourage ongoing review and improvement of AI-related curriculum and practices.

~~The Ashland School District Board recognizes the significant and rapidly expanding role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in our society and the global economy. Understanding the importance of preparing our students for a future where AI is ubiquitous, the Board is committed to implementing a comprehensive AI literacy program across K-12 education. This policy aims to ensure students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to use AI tools effectively, think critically about AI technologies, and navigate the ethical implications of AI in both academic and real-world settings.~~

~~**Policy Objectives:**~~

- ~~**To develop AI literacy among students at developmentally appropriate levels across all grades, K-12.**~~

- ~~**To provide educators with the guidance and professional development needed to effectively teach AI concepts.**~~

- ~~**To ensure universal access to AI tools and resources within the learning environment.**~~

- ~~**To promote equity and ethical use of AI across all student demographics.**~~

- ~~**To incorporate AI literacy, citizenship, and skills into the curriculum.**~~

- ~~**To advocate for safe use and privacy in the application of AI technologies.**~~

- To enhance bias awareness and foster an environment of ongoing assessment and recalibration of AI tools and instructional strategies.

1. **Guidance and Professional Development for Educators and Staff**

1. **Guidance and Professional Development for Educators:**

   The district will provide ongoing professional development for educators and staff to:
   - Stay informed of current AI advancements and instructional strategies.
   - Learn to use AI responsibly for curriculum design, grading, communication, and administrative tasks.
   - Understand and comply with applicable copyright, confidentiality, and privacy laws.
   - Identify and mitigate bias and inaccuracies in AI outputs.

   District staff are authorized to use generative artificial intelligence to perform various work functions. They are responsible for ensuring all use complies with federal and state laws, including FERPA and copyright. District staff are prohibited from entering personally identifiable information (PII) into any generative AI application.

   The district will facilitate ongoing professional development opportunities for educators to remain abreast of AI advancements and pedagogical strategies for integrating AI literacy into the curriculum. This includes workshops, seminars, and access to AI educational resources.

2. Student Use of AI

Independent Student Use
Teachers may permit independent student use of AI tools for assignments or projects when appropriate. They will establish and communicate clear rules for responsible use, including:
- Awareness of potential bias, inaccuracies, and plagiarism.
- Accessibility and equitable access to approved tools.
- Acknowledgment that inappropriate use may result in loss of credit or disciplinary action.
Failure to follow classroom AI use rules may result in incomplete credit or disciplinary measures consistent with district policy.

AI Use as Part of Class
Teachers may incorporate AI tools into instruction to enhance learning and meet course objectives. Only applications approved by the district's Information Technology Department may be used. Teachers will follow all terms of use and notify parents or guardians when AI tools are part of instruction. Students may not share accounts, passwords, or unauthorized access credentials.

2. **Universal Access to AI Tools:**

   To eliminate the digital divide, the district will ensure that all students have equitable access to AI tools and technologies at school. This will be achieved through the provision of necessary hardware and software in classrooms and libraries across the district.

~~3.~~ **~~3. Equity and Ethical Use of AI:~~ Ethical and Safe Use**

AI technologies must be used in ways that uphold integrity, equity, and student safety.
- Creation or distribution of "deep fakes" or other harmful, misleading, or explicit AI-generated content is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion or termination.
- Any suspected criminal activity will be referred to law enforcement.
- The district will provide instruction on the ethical use of AI and the consequences of misuse.

Students and staff who violate this policy or related rules may be subject to discipline and referral to law enforcement as appropriate.

~~Curriculum development will include a strong emphasis on the ethical considerations of AI, including privacy, security, and the societal impacts of technology. The district will prioritize creating an inclusive environment where all students can learn about and engage with AI technologies.~~

4. Equity and Access
The district will ensure equitable access to AI tools, software, and instructional materials to close the digital divide. Devices and resources will be made available in classrooms and libraries to support all learners.

Teachers should also consider accessibility of AI programs and technology for students outside of school settings when assigning work requiring AI tools.

~~4.   AI Literacy, Citizenship, and Skills:~~

~~The curriculum will integrate AI literacy at all grade levels, tailored to the developmental stages of students. This includes understanding AI technology, its applications, and fostering responsible digital citizenship and critical thinking skills.~~

5. Privacy, Security, and Data Protection
All laws and policies regarding student privacy, confidentiality, and data security will be followed at all times.
- No personal, confidential, or sensitive data may be entered into AI systems.
- District staff will follow the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), and FERPA.

All laws regarding student records, confidentiality, privacy, and student internet use will be followed at all times.

~~5.   Safe Use and Privacy:~~

~~Education on the safe use of AI technologies and the importance of data privacy will be embedded into the curriculum. Students will learn best practices for protecting personal information online and the implications of data sharing.~~

6. Bias Awareness and Critical Thinking
Students and staff will be educated to:
- Recognize and evaluate bias in AI algorithms and outputs.
- Understand the ethical and social implications of AI use.
- Think critically about the role of AI in society and decision-making.

Students will be taught to responsibly identify and address inaccuracies or bias in generative AI outputs.

~~6.   Bias Awareness:~~

~~Instruction will include discussions on the potential biases within AI systems and the importance of diverse~~

~~data sets in the development of AI technologies. Students will be encouraged to critically evaluate AI outputs and consider the ethical dimensions of AI use.~~

~~7.   Harmful Use of AI~~

~~The creation and dissemination of deep fakes—digitally manipulated photographs, audio, or videos that create explicit, derogatory, or false portrayals of students or members of the school community—present significant risks to mental health, the school environment, and safety. The use of deep fakes and any other potentially harmful applications of AI are strictly forbidden and will lead to disciplinary measures up to and including expulsion. Any criminal behavior will be reported to law enforcement.~~

~~The District will provide instruction about the ethical use of AI technologies and the consequences of their misuse.~~

7. Continuous Improvement

The district will review AI-related curriculum, resources, and practices annually to ensure alignment with technological developments, legal standards, and community values. Adjustments will be made based on research, feedback, and observed outcomes.

Professional development and training opportunities will be reviewed annually to ensure staff can effectively and ethically use AI tools in their work.

~~8.   Ongoing Assessment and Recalibration:~~

~~The district commits to the continuous evaluation of AI literacy curriculum and resources, ensuring that instructional materials remain current with the evolving landscape of AI technologies. This includes regular updates to the curriculum and professional development offerings based on the latest research and industry advancements.~~

Implementation and Oversight

The Superintendent, in collaboration with the District Technology Officer and Curriculum Development Team, will oversee policy implementation, training, and compliance.

The Superintendent will ensure the district maintains an approved list of AI applications and communicates usage guidelines to staff and families.

~~Implementation:~~

~~The Superintendent, in collaboration with the District Technology Officer and Curriculum Development Team, will oversee the policy's implementation, including resource allocation, program development, and the establishment of evaluation metrics to assess progress.~~

Review and Adjustment:

The policy will be reviewed annually by the Board, with adjustments made as necessary to reflect technological advancements, educational research, and feedback from educators, students, and the community.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

Legal References
ORS 332.107
Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101–12133
Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), 47 U.S.C. §§ 254(h) and (l); 47 C.F.R. § 54.520
Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), 15 U.S.C. §§ 6501–6505
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. § 99
Protection of Pupil Rights, 20 U.S.C. § 1232h