



A Parent's Guide to AI Advocacy in Education

Empowering families for student success.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming our world, including how kids learn in school. As parents and caregivers, it's crucial to understand how AI is being used in schools and to make sure AI is being used fairly and responsibly. This guide, based on insights from the National Parents Union, Common Sense Media, and the EDSAFE AI Alliance, provides you with the knowledge and tools to become effective advocates for your children's education in the age of AI. Remember, you have the right to ask questions and get clear answers about how AI affects your child's education.

What is the SAFE Framework?

The EDSAFE AI Alliance's SAFE Framework offers key benchmarks for the safe, accountable, fair, and effective (SAFE) use of AI in schools. Its goal is to ensure **fair outcomes for students** and **improved working conditions for educators** through responsible AI implementation. This matters because AI is being used in a lot of places in schools, including tutoring programs, grading systems, and personalized learning software and apps.

The SAFE Framework is based on four key pillars:

Safety

- ✓ Security measures to protect student data.
- ✓ Privacy policies that respect family rights.
- ✓ Commitment to "do no harm" in AI applications.

Accountability

- ✓ Clear roles and responsibilities for AI implementation.
- ✓ Thorough testing and evaluation of AI tools.
- ✓ Meaningful stakeholder inclusion (parents, educators, students) in AI decision-making.

Fairness & Transparency

- ✓ Commitment to accessibility and addressing disparities.
- ✓ Ethical considerations in AI design and deployment.
- ✓ Proactive efforts to reduce bias in AI algorithms and data.

Efficacy

- ✓ Focus on improving learning outcomes for all students.
- ✓ Evidence-based results demonstrating AI's positive impact.
- ✓ Adequate training and support for educators to effectively use AI tools.

Parent Perspectives and Key Questions

As parents, your voice is essential in shaping how AI is used in education. Consider these perspectives and questions as you engage with your school and district:

Safety

Parent Perspective: *"I want to know my child's data is safe and won't be misused."*

KEY QUESTIONS

How does the school keep my family's personal information safe from hackers?

How is student data being used, and who has access to it?

What are the school's privacy policies regarding AI tools?

Accountability

Parent Perspective: *"I want to be sure the school is thoughtfully considering the risks and benefits of AI."*

KEY QUESTIONS

Who is responsible for overseeing AI implementation in the school/district?

How does the school test AI tools to make sure they work well and treat students fairly?

How are families and other stakeholders involved in decisions about AI use?

Fairness & Transparency

Parent Perspective: *"I want to know that AI is used fairly and doesn't perpetuate bias."*

KEY QUESTIONS

How is the school ensuring that AI tools are equitable for all students, regardless of background?

How does the school make sure AI tools don't treat some students unfairly?

How transparent is the school about how AI is being used and its potential impact?

Efficacy

Parent Perspective: *"I want to know if AI improves my child's learning."*

KEY QUESTIONS

How does the school know if AI is actually helping students learn?

What evidence is there that AI is improving student achievement and engagement?

Are teachers adequately trained and supported to use AI tools effectively?

How Families Can Take Action

Here are some concrete steps you can take to advocate for responsible AI in education:

Talk to Your Children: Discuss AI with your children and encourage them to share their experiences and concerns.

Ask Your School About AI Policies: Ask about the school's policies for AI. Don't be afraid to ask questions and express your concerns.

Learn About Specific AI Programs: Investigate the specific AI tools and programs your school is using or considering. Understand their purpose, functionality, and potential impact.

Collaborate with Other Families: Connect with other parents and caregivers to share information, discuss concerns, and work together to make change.

Attend School Board Meetings: Participate in school board meetings to voice your opinions and advocate for responsible AI policies.

Share This Resource: Share this guide with other families to empower them to become informed and engaged advocates.

Start Small This Week: Ask your child's teacher one question about AI, or review your school's website for AI policies.

Next Steps

Take action today. This month, complete one or more of the actions listed above. By staying informed, asking critical questions, and actively advocating, you can play a vital role in ensuring that AI is used responsibly and equitably to benefit all students. Continue to engage with your school, district, and community to shape the future of AI in education. The National Parents Union, Common Sense Media, and EDSAFE AI Alliance provide valuable resources for staying up to date on the latest developments and best practices in AI education.

nationalparentsunion.org

commonsense.org

edsafeai.org