

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

The York School Committee (YSC) recognizes that Generative Artificial Intelligence (“GAI”) can create efficiencies for certain staff positions, enhance instructional methods for teachers and other classroom staff. However, GAI use raises many concerns, including data privacy, copyright issues, reliability of the content generated through AI, and academic integrity. The YSC believes that students should not rely on GAI to produce work for them. Doing so denies them the learning that comes from writing, collaborating and thinking and violates YSC policies ADAA and JIC. We are committed to preparing students to identify and critically evaluate the information that GAI may propagate.

Consequently, this policy and related administrative guidelines aim to assist YSD’s Staff and students in using GAI specifically, as a constructive tool to enhance critical thinking and academic and job performance while safeguarding our students’ privacy, security, and well-being.

I. DEFINITION

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI): a form of technology that creates content including but not limited to text, images, data, sound, and even human voices. GAI creates new and original content by learning how to best respond to prompts and by mining content and data that already exists.

II. SCOPE

These guidelines apply to staff and student use of GAI technology for school-related purposes and establish rules for the acceptable use of GAI within YSD. These guidelines address only the use of GAI technology by asking or “prompting” the technology to find answers to questions or to create or edit written or other content. They do not apply to GAI components that are built into the software that YSD maintains or already licenses, including but not limited to (Nearpod, Canva, PowerSchool, etc.). Use of such software is governed by our existing policies and procedures and our agreements with software vendors.

III. PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

GAI must not be used to collect, store, or analyze student data without explicit consent and a clear educational purpose. It is inappropriate to use AI tools that infringe on students' privacy rights or fail to comply with data protection laws (e.g., FERPA, COPPA).

IV. REPLACING HUMAN INTERACTION

GAI tools, platforms, and services should not replace essential human elements of teaching and mentoring. While AI can augment teaching, it must not substitute for the personalized and empathetic interaction between teachers and students.

GAI should be used as a tool to aid learning and should not replace traditional learning methods. The use of GAI must not hinder the development of critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, effective communication, or other essential skills.

V. HIGH-STAKES DECISION MAKING

Using GAI for high-stakes decisions, such as determining a student's academic progression, grading, or disciplinary actions, without human oversight is inappropriate. GAI should support, not replace, the professional judgment of educators.

VI. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

The YSD will provide staff with regular professional development on how to use GAI effectively for planning, preparation, and privacy.

The YSD instructional program will provide students with age-appropriate education on GAI, covering what it is, how it works, its limitations, reliability, vetting, citations, and ethical use. This instruction will include information on how to identify and critically evaluate the information that GAI may propagate.

VII. Authorization

The YSC authorizes the Superintendent, in collaboration with the Director of Technology and Innovation, administrators and/or staff, to create related guidelines and/or procedures for YSD staff and student acceptable use and prohibited use of GAI.

The YSC charges the Superintendent and designees with the regular and timely review and revision of those guidelines/procedures and with conducting regular audits to ensure compliance with this policy and *IJNDE-R* to assess the effectiveness and impact of GAI in the YSD.

Cross References: AC - Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity & Affirmative Action
 ACAA - Harassment & Sexual Harassment of Students
 ACAB - Harassment & Sexual Harassment of School Employees
 ADAA - School System Commitment to Standards for Ethical & Responsible Behavior
 EGAD - Copyright Compliance
 GCI - Professional Staff Development Opportunities
 IJNDB - Student Computer and Internet Use
 IJNDE-R York School Department Staff and Student Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Administrative Guidelines
 JIC - System-Wide Student Code of Conduct
 JICK - Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention
 JK - Student Discipline
 KG - Civility

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99
 Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998, 15 U.S.C. 6501–6505
 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 6001

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