

Executive Summary

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has established a statewide framework for the responsible use of artificial intelligence in K–12 public schools. AI may support teaching, learning, and school operations when implemented with strong human oversight, clear guardrails, and a sustained commitment to equity, privacy, and academic integrity. Human judgment and student wellbeing remain central.

Maryland's approach reflects shared governance. MSDE sets statewide expectations and safeguards. Local education agencies develop policy, vet tools, implement practices, and monitor impact. Educators remain the primary decision-makers in classrooms, and students are expected to use AI transparently and responsibly.

This guidance integrates AI across instruction, literacy, professional learning, data governance, operations, and procurement, and will be updated regularly as technology and implementation experience evolve.

EIGHT CRITICAL ELEMENTS

Human-Centered, Student-Focused Use. AI may support differentiation, feedback, and access, but must not replace human relationships, professional judgment, or essential skill development.

Equity and Civil Rights Protections. AI systems must be monitored for bias and disparate impact. Access to AI-supported learning must not widen opportunity gaps. All uses remain subject to federal and state civil rights law.

Data Privacy and Security. AI integration must comply with FERPA, COPPA, PPRA, IDEA, ADA, Section 504, COMAR, and applicable Maryland law. Districts must enforce data minimization, contractual safeguards, and cybersecurity protections.

Academic Integrity and Assessment. Schools must clearly define appropriate AI use, require transparency when AI is permitted, and redesign assessments to emphasize reasoning, process, and authentic demonstration of learning rather than reliance on detection tools.

Professional Learning and Capacity Building. AI implementation depends on educator preparation. Role-specific professional learning must equip teachers, leaders, and staff to evaluate AI outputs critically and use tools responsibly.

AI Literacy and Curriculum Integration. Students must develop the knowledge and skills to understand how AI systems function, evaluate bias and limitations, protect privacy, and use AI ethically across disciplines and grade levels.

Operational and Administrative AI Oversight. High-stakes operational systems, including predictive analytics and automated decision-support tools, require documented human review, equity monitoring, and transparent communication.

Procurement and Vendor Governance. Districts must apply structured evaluation criteria, contractual protections, and ongoing monitoring to ensure that AI tools meet standards for privacy, accessibility, transparency, and instructional value.