

## Understanding Artificial Intelligence: Education & AI Explained

Europe

# A SMARTER WAY TO LEARN — HOW AI IS TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN EUROPE

**Artificial intelligence (AI) provides many opportunities for educators, learners, and parents.** By offering personalised support, automating routine tasks for teachers, and improving accessibility, AI-powered tools can enhance the learning experience.

AI is helping Europe build a smarter, more inclusive educational environment – one that better meets the diverse needs of students, including children in schools.

## Real-world impact: how AI is used in classrooms today

Already **86% of students say they use AI<sup>1</sup>** in their studies. And in the classroom, AI-powered tools are being used in a variety of practical applications:



### PERSONALISE LEARNING

**AI systems can create tailored learning paths for students by analysing their progress and adapting the curriculum to their individual needs.**

For example, an AI tutor can identify when a student is struggling and provide targeted exercises.



### AUTOMATE ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS

**AI can streamline many administrative duties, giving teachers back valuable time.**

This allows teachers to focus on direct interaction with students. Case studies show that teachers using AI tools already save up to 10 hours per week.



### ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY

**AI helps make education more inclusive by providing tools that assist students with disabilities.**

Text-to-speech or real-time captions can empower learners with visual or hearing impairments, while AI-driven translation helps non-native speakers.

Leading AI developers already launched great education tools and initiatives, for example:

- ▶ Amazon Web Services (AWS) launched the AWS Education Equity Initiative to help build digital learning solutions for underserved learners.
- ▶ Google's Gemini for Education helps teachers tailor lessons and spot where students are struggling. These AI tools reinforce learning processes rather than replacing them.
- ▶ Similarly, Mistral AI partnered with leading universities and business schools, while Anthropic's Claude for education provides tools for students, professors, and staff.
- ▶ OpenAI's Study Mode in ChatGPT is an interactive tutor that guides students step by step to encourage deeper understanding.

<sup>1</sup> Survey: 86% of Students Already Use AI in Their Studies, Rhea Kelly, August 2024, available here: <https://campustechnology.com/articles/2024/08/28/survey-86-of-students-already-use-ai-in-their-studies.aspx>

## What does this mean for EU policy?

The integration of AI in education, especially its interaction with children, requires careful consideration. But the **European Union already has a sound legal framework in place:**

- ▶ The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) provides comprehensive rules for the processing of all personal data – ensuring privacy and data protection for minors.
- ▶ The EU's AI Act also classifies certain AI systems used in education as 'high-risk'.

## 6 PRINCIPLES FOR A RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO AI IN EDUCATION

### 1. ENSURE RESPONSIBLE USE.



- ▶ AI is a complementary tool, it does not replace students' thinking. Clear guidance on when AI is appropriate, or not, is needed.
- ▶ Just like with a calculator in math, students must first learn foundational skills in order to responsibly use these tools.

### 2. PRIORITISE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.



- ▶ Classrooms are safe spaces where students can explore AI under the supervision of teachers.
- ▶ Regular screen breaks are healthy, but complete screen bans can be counterproductive, as AI tools are essential for today's world.

### 3. BALANCE ACCESS & PROTECTION.



- ▶ Schools and governments should balance access to AI tools with data protection and cybersecurity.
- ▶ Cloud-based platforms not only provide access to AI, but also ensure that data is recoverable and protected.

### 4. APPLY RISK-BASED RULES.



- ▶ Policy should be technology-neutral and prioritise a risk-based approach for specific AI use-cases.
- ▶ Focus on high-risk applications, but allow beneficial tools to be deployed without unnecessary burden.

### 5. ADVANCE HUMAN-CENTRIC TOOLS.



- ▶ Policy should support the development of AI tools that augment and empower educators, not replace them.
- ▶ The teacher's role as a decision-maker and mentor remains paramount. AI should enhance that role.

### 6. STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION.



- ▶ Industry, educators, parents, and policymakers need to work together to ensure that regulations are technically feasible and that AI tools meet the needs of the educational community.

### About CCIA Europe

The Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA) is an international, not-for-profit association representing a broad cross section of computer, communications, and internet industry firms.

As an advocate for a thriving European digital economy, **CCIA Europe has been actively contributing to EU policy making since 2009.**

CCIA's Brussels-based team seeks to **improve understanding of our industry and share the tech sector's collective expertise**, with a view to fostering balanced and well-informed policy making in Europe.



Visit us at



[ccianet.eu](https://ccianet.eu)



[x.com/CCIAEurope](https://x.com/CCIAEurope)



[linkedin.com/showcase/cciaeurope](https://linkedin.com/showcase/cciaeurope)

CCIA Europe  
Rue de la Loi 227, first floor  
1040 Brussels • Belgium