



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 AI¹** 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.

¹ 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.

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