Microsoft

AI in Education

A Microsoft Special Report

Introduction

AI is no longer emerging in education. It's here, and it's making an impact. In classrooms across the globe, educators are reclaiming hours once spent on administrative work. Students are engaging more deeply with their course materials. Institutions are reimagining learning experiences and fundamentally transforming how they operate.

This moment goes beyond adopting technology—it shapes how the next generation learns, works, and navigates an AI-driven world.

To better understand this shift, Microsoft Education conducts an annual survey from grade schools through universities. Every year, our international research shows that AI usage is gaining ground. Today, 9 out of 10 education leaders, educators, and students say they have used AI at least once for school-related purposes.

In this report, we will explore findings from our latest global research, highlight institutions that are using AI to improve learning, and offer recommendations to help educators and administrators meet this pivotal moment.

"Schools are places that develop skills—but they're also where society itself is created. AI gives educators an incredible range of new tools to accomplish that work."

—Mark Sparvell
Director, Marketing Education, Microsoft

AI success in action

Global stories of AI leaders from K–12 through higher education

UC Chile—Santiago, Chile
The Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile deployed 194 artificial-intelligence pedagogical agents to support learning and strengthen the teaching experience at scale. In the most active agents, sessions averaged 13–23 minutes, a level of sustained engagement that signals deep exploration of course content, not quick or superficial queries.

MLC School—Sydney, Australia
Rather than treating technology as an add-on or isolated initiative, the K–12 school has integrated AI capabilities into everyday learning. One teacher created "Friar Lawrence," an AI agent that speaks in Elizabethan English, to help students grapple with Shakespearean projects such as analyzing *Romeo and Juliet*.

Broward County Public Schools—Florida, United States
The district deployed 20,000 Microsoft 365 Copilot licenses, providing AI capabilities to educators and staff while enabling students to use Copilot Chat and Copilot Studio. Educators reclaimed 6–7 hours weekly that they redirected to students. Projected facilities savings were $40 million–$50 million over five years.

"We have to meet this moment and prepare our students for what's ahead. If we shy away from what's going on globally, we will be left behind."

—Dr. Sherri Wilson
Director of Innovative Learning, Broward County Public Schools

An inflection point

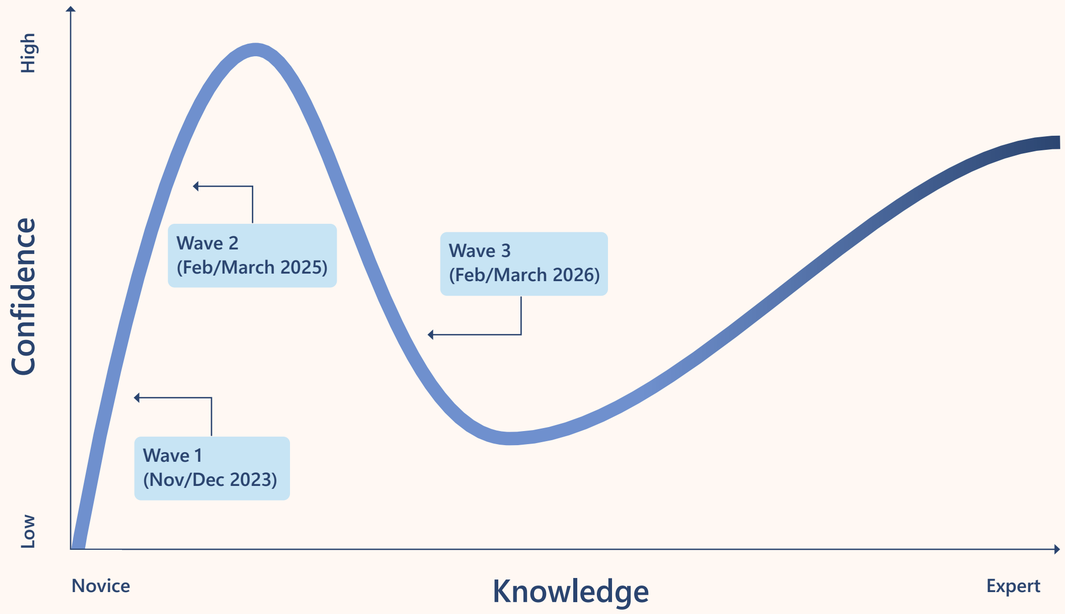
The capabilities of AI have advanced quickly, and in education, people are moving beyond experimentation to integrate AI into their day-to-day work. As AI continues to evolve and become part of daily routines, early enthusiasm and confidence around using it is softening.

This shift may reflect a natural point in the AI adoption curve in education and in the workforce. Greater familiarity with AI is showing people how much is possible, but also how much there is to learn—a familiar cycle with each new technology.

What's clear is that educational institutions need to provide more consistent support to keep momentum strong. Our survey shows that students and educators are asking for AI training—and both believe the technology is critical to students' futures. As long as AI continues to accelerate in the workplace, it cannot plateau in education.

As confidence shifts, the need for AI support rises

Early enthusiasm is giving way to deeper understanding and needs for support. This moment creates a critical opportunity for institutions to systematically invest in AI, with **66%** of educators and **52%** of students wanting their institution to provide AI training monthly or quarterly. Broad majorities of both say AI literacy will be essential for students' future success.



Source: AI in Education Microsoft Study, 2026
Note on methodology: This chart synthesizes trend data for education leaders, educators, and students—including general AI sentiment, comfort using AI, the role of AI in education, confidence, and AI literacy—over three years of survey data.

AI in Education Report

1. Adoption, impact, and challenges

AI is already making a difference in schools—but institutions are also facing new challenges in getting the most out of the technology.

2. Meeting the moment

Clear guidance, training, and leadership can help educators and students realize the potential of AI to support teaching and learning.

3. Why it matters: Preparing students for the future of work

Students who learn to work collaboratively with AI will be set up for success in a workforce that increasingly demands AI skills.

1

Adoption, impact, and challenges

Adoption, impact, and challenges

Today, 58% of education leaders say their schools are already implementing or scaling AI. Our global survey reveals how students, educators, and leaders are using it, where they're finding it most valuable, and what challenges they're facing.

Adoption: AI use remains strong

The vast majority of students (**92%**), education leaders (**92%**), and educators (**88%**) have already used AI for school-related purposes at least once or twice. The opportunity ahead is for institutions to create support systems that enable more integrated, purposeful practice.

Both education leaders and educators were slightly less likely to say they know a lot about AI compared to last year. The shift likely reflects a better understanding of what they don't yet know.

Globally, AI usage is strong among all audiences

Education leaders are most likely to be daily users.

Relationship with AI

Portion who say their AI use for school-related purposes has increased over the past year

Portion who use it daily in their role or for school-related purposes

Portion likely to say "I know a lot about AI"

Source: AI in Education Microsoft Study, 2026. Students surveyed were age 13 and up. Education leaders included academic and IT leaders.

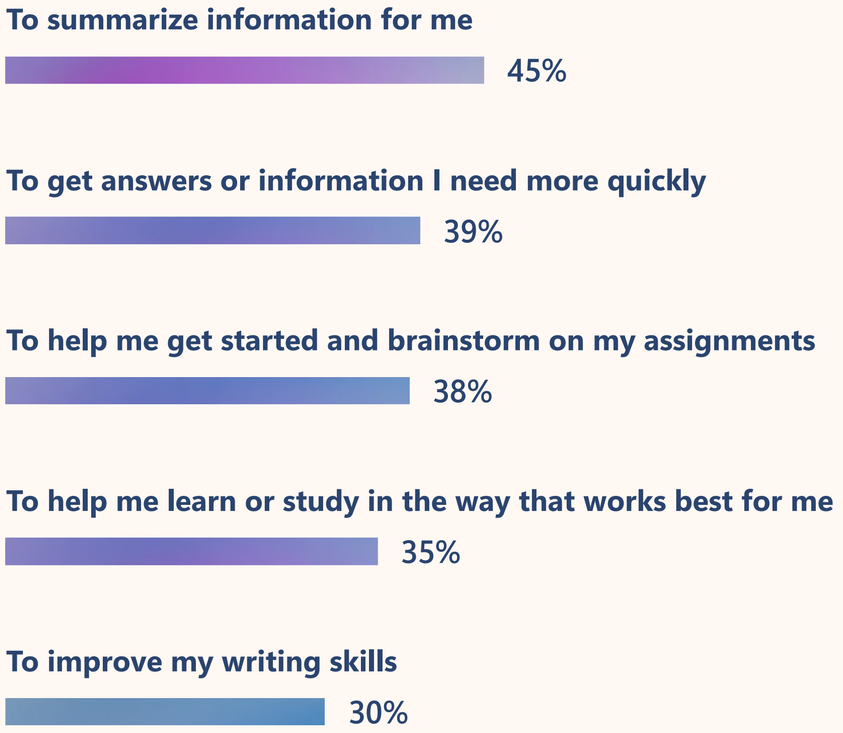
Impact: AI for students

Students are turning to AI to help get started with their work and learn in ways that better fit their individual needs. Of students surveyed, **58%** reported that at least three use cases are now easier with the help of AI.

> **"It's helping us push students beyond knowledge recall into evaluation, synthesis, and justification. The students aren't just asking for answers. They're asking Copilot Chat better questions, and that's a major shift. It lets students spend less time hunting for sources and more time thinking about what they mean. That's where the learning really happens."**
>
> —Shane Tooley
> Assistant Principal Curriculum at St. Peter Claver College (Queensland, Australia)

Students' top uses for AI

Students often seek help making information easier to understand.



Sample represents K–12 and higher education students globally.
Survey question: For which of the following tasks are you using AI tools as a student?
Source: AI in Education Microsoft Study, 2026

AI for educators and education leaders

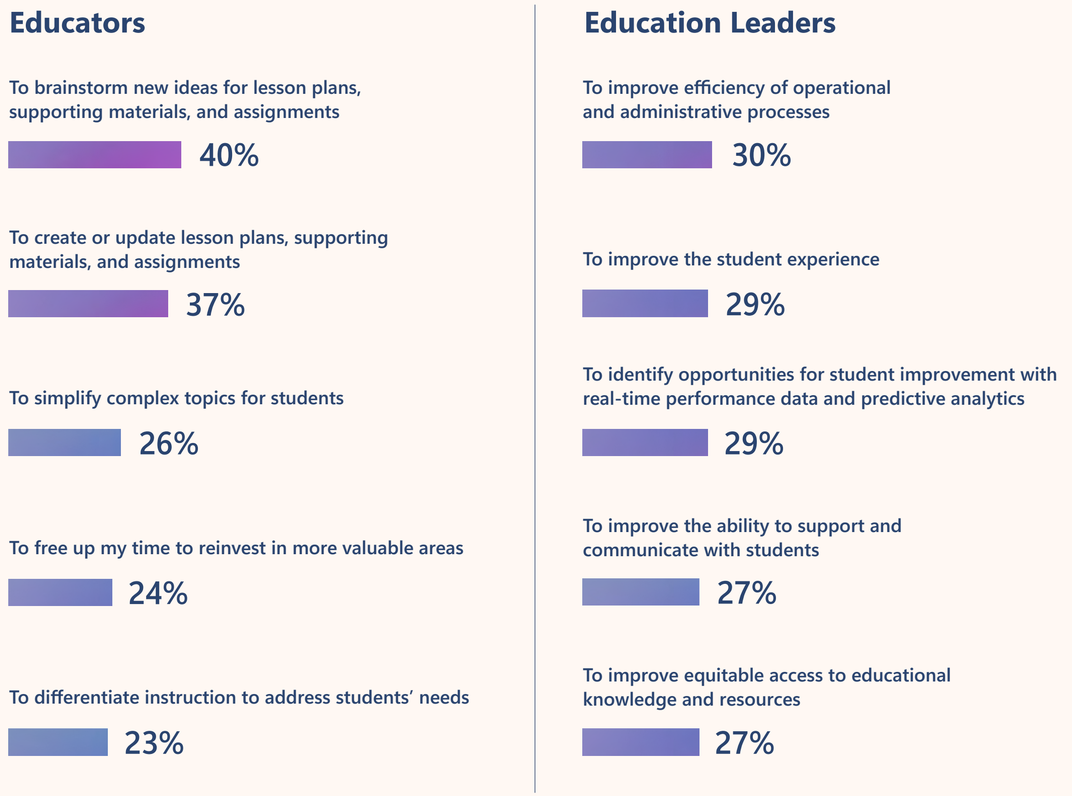
AI is becoming part of core teaching workflows, with educators using it most often to generate new ideas for classroom activities, help build lesson plans, and simplify complex topics. Meanwhile, education leaders are focusing on how AI can drive system-level impact—from identifying opportunities for student improvement to increasing operational efficiency. Most educators (**58%**) and education leaders (**70%**) say that at least three use cases are now easier with the help of AI.

With time saved by using AI to help with paperwork and planning, "Now I'm able to pay more attention to those students who need more accommodations, who need differentiated learning. I can challenge students more."

—Hermes Abrantes
Leader of Broward County's first AI Academy at Nova High School (Florida, US)

Top AI uses among educators and education leaders

AI is becoming part of everyday teaching practice, especially in lesson planning. It also helps education leaders identify where students need more support.



Sample represents K–12 and higher education leaders and educators globally.
Survey question: For which of the following tasks are you using AI tools in your role?
Source: AI in Education Microsoft Study, 2026

As AI becomes an integral part of the education landscape, three main challenges stand out in survey responses from education leaders, educators, and students:

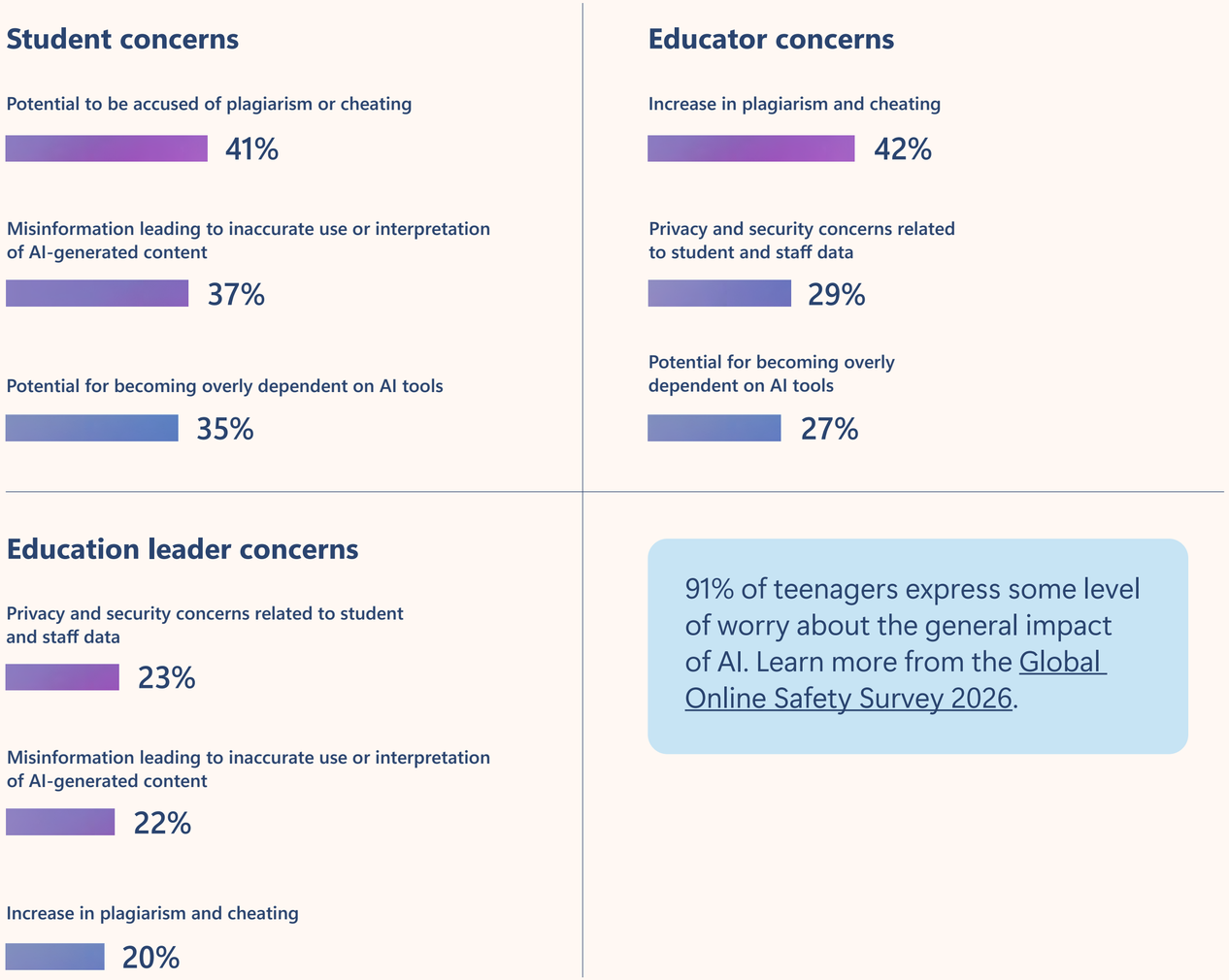
- **Academic integrity** is a unique—and growing—challenge for AI in education. Educators worry about increased plagiarism and cheating, while students fear being accused of it.
- **Privacy, security, and data** are concerns, particularly for educators and leaders. They are the ones who decide which tools enter the classrooms—and they take that responsibility seriously when it comes to students' data.
- **AI literacy** remains uneven, and most students and educators say they have not received formal AI training.

"We are in a worldwide learning moment. And teachers shouldn't bear the burden of figuring out AI on their own."

—Pat Yongpradit
General Manager, Global Education and Workforce Policy, Microsoft

Concerns in education

Students, educators, and leaders express similar concerns about AI, with variations stemming from their vantage points. Students are more focused on immediate personal risks, like being accused of cheating or failing to spot misinformation as a result of AI-generated content. Educators and institutional leaders both emphasize risks to student learning, along with privacy or security concerns. Clear communication around privacy and security can help build trust in AI systems. That trust, in turn, gives educators and students more confidence to experiment, explore, and use AI effectively.



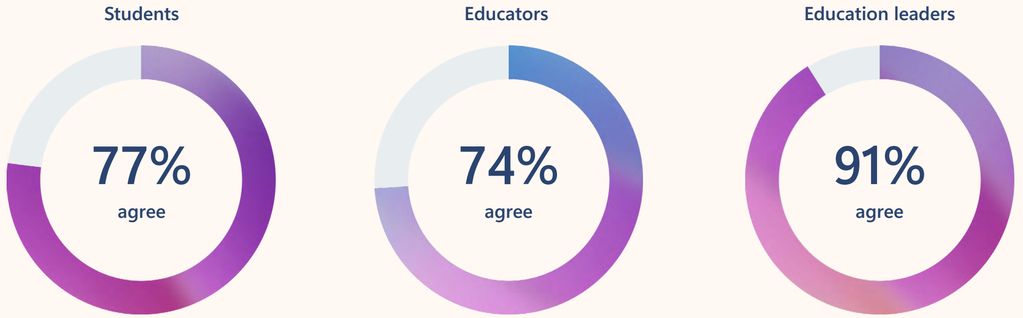
91% of teenagers express some level of worry about the general impact of AI. Learn more from the Global Online Safety Survey 2026.

Survey question: Please select the top three reasons why you may be concerned about AI usage within your school/district/university/college or for school purposes.
Source: AI in Education Microsoft Study, 2026

Confidence and optimism

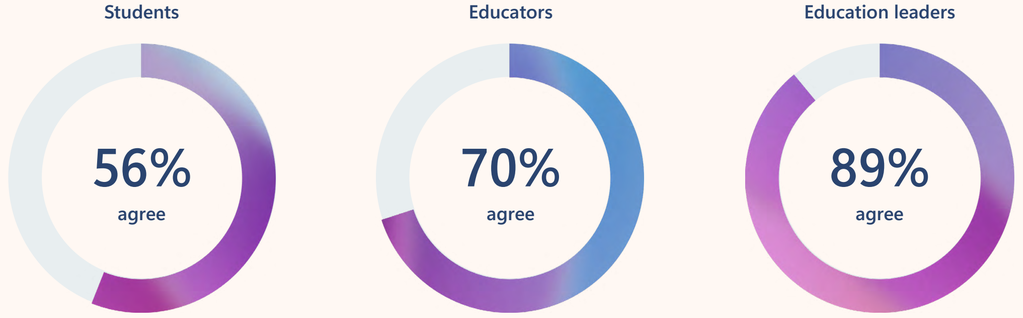
Most students, educators, and education leaders feel confident in their AI skills. But, over the last year, AI optimism has declined slightly, particularly among students. This may be because students are navigating constant AI technology advances alongside news about job market uncertainty. Often, AI is evolving faster than their school's guidance and support structures. What's more, as students grow more comfortable using AI, they may become more aware of its challenges and unmet opportunities.

"I feel confident in my ability to use AI effectively and responsibly."



Survey question: To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "I feel confident in my ability to use AI effectively and responsibly."
Source: AI in Education Microsoft Study, 2026

"I'm optimistic that artificial intelligence (AI) will improve our lives and the world we live in."



Survey question: Based on what you know about AI, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I'm optimistic that artificial intelligence (AI) will improve our lives and the world we live in."
Source: AI in Education Microsoft Study, 2026

Saudi Arabian audiences are the most optimistic about AI, and US audiences the least. Among US students, AI optimism dropped 21 percentage points from last year. For education leaders, it dropped six points, and for educators, seven.

2

Meeting the moment

Microsoft

Meeting the moment

Institutions making the most progress with AI don’t just deploy the technology, they build the conditions for it to succeed. Our research showed that two needs rose to the top: investment in AI literacy and strong guidance on when and how to use the technology.

What students and educators need

Despite growing investments in AI support, many students and educators still want more support navigating AI effectively and responsibly. When students and educators were asked how their schools could step up to support their AI use, both groups said that they want more training and better guidance.

Schools are not alone in facing these challenges. Microsoft's 2026 Work Trend Index suggests organizations across industries are facing similar challenges as they work to adapt training, workflows, and support systems to rapid AI change.

How could your school better support your AI journey?

Top three responses for students:

1. AI integrations into curriculum and learning
2. Responsible use and plagiarism education
3. AI literacy training and workshops

Top three responses for educators:

1. AI literacy training and workshops
2. Clear guidelines and AI policy development
3. Support and professional development for educators

Survey question: How do you think your school/university/college could better support your AI journey? In what areas do you think it would be most beneficial to receive more guidance?
Source: Source: AI in Education Microsoft Study, 2026

Spotting gaps in AI support

Students and educators often perceive institutional AI support differently than leaders do. And many want more learning opportunities; **66% of educators** and **52% of students** say they'd like their institution to provide AI training monthly or quarterly.

> "Education leaders say they're delivering the content, but the end audience says they're not receiving it. That deserves a closer look. AI is changing so fast that people may not have time to embed what they've learned into their practice before it's changed again, so they're constantly feeling in deficit."
>
> —Mark Sparvell
> Director, Marketing Education, Microsoft

Guidance gap

Leaders say their schools offer clear AI guidance...

Four-fifths of education leaders rated their institution's AI guidance as clear.

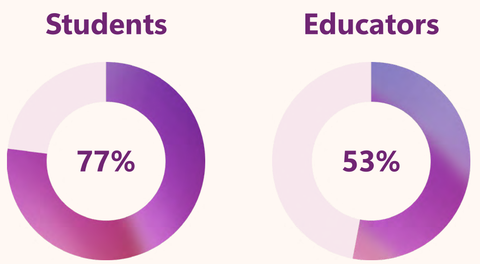
...but students and teachers are less convinced.

Half of students and teachers noted their institution's guidance as neutral or not provided.

Training gap

A majority of students and educators say they haven't received formal training.

But education leaders seem to view the situation differently. Seven in 10 education leaders say at least half of users at their school or university have had AI training.



77% of students and 53% of educators say they have not had AI training.

Survey questions: How much guidance does your school/district provide educators and students on the use of AI tools for education? (On a scale of 1–5, with 1 signaling no official guidance and 5 representing clear guidance). For students and educators: Have you received any AI training from your school/district/university/college? For education leaders: What percent of AI users (including educators, staff, and students) at your school/district/university/college have received AI training?
Source: AI in Education Microsoft Study, 2026

Priority: Building AI literacy, confidence, and competence

AI literacy means having "the technical knowledge, durable skills, and future-ready attitudes required to thrive in a world influenced by AI," according to the European Commission & OECD's draft AI Literacy Framework. It "enables learners to engage, create with, manage, and shape AI, while critically evaluating its benefits, risks, and ethical implications." AI literacy is not just about learning how to use a tool. It also includes critical thinking, communication, and judgment.

Though these capabilities are becoming increasingly important in an AI-driven world, fewer than half of educators in the survey describe AI literacy as "an essential component of basic education for every student." Many might still associate AI literacy with technical proficiency or prompt engineering, rather than with the broader metacognitive and communication skills that students learn, starting in primary school.

This creates an opportunity for leadership to expand and deepen educators' understanding of AI literacy to include these broader human skills.

As AI tools evolve rapidly, institutions may need to move beyond standalone AI training sessions and focus instead on helping educators and students build confidence through practical, everyday use. In many cases, that may not look like formal AI instruction. Imagine educators working together to use AI to brainstorm a compelling lesson on rainforests, and students then using AI to help them unpack and understand dense scientific research on biodiversity.

Priority: Clear, practical guidance, especially on academic integrity

Students and educators both want direction from their institutions on academic integrity in AI use. Effective guidance makes expectations explicit—what's allowed, what's discouraged, and what's off-limits. AI should be framed as a thinking partner that helps students with brainstorming, organizing ideas, and exploring options rather than doing the work for them. It should be a guide, not an "answer engine," as Microsoft's Sparvell says.

The most effective AI guidance is rarely just a top-down policy document. Institutions may see stronger adoption when educators, academic leaders, and technology teams all help shape the guardrails together.

Even students can join the effort. At Mid-Pacific Institute, a K–12 school in Hawaii, high school students help draft and refine policies for appropriate, ethical, and responsible AI use. There is an intent by educators to engage students in open dialogue around the issues surrounding the role of AI in learning.

Where students aren't directly involved in shaping policy, open conversations in class remain essential.

TeachAI offers a toolkit for K–12 school leaders and educators developing AI guidance.

Spotlight: U.S. state policies on AI in schools

Momentum around AI policy in schools is growing across the US, though implementation is uneven. More than two-thirds of US states and one territory have published official AI guidance for schools, signaling a meaningful shift from ad hoc adoption to structured oversight. However, while many states acknowledge AI literacy as a priority, few have embedded it into their standards or made it a graduation requirement. Even without formal guidance from states, institutions should expect to keep evolving their own best practices.

State guidance on AI

36 states offer official AI guidance (+ Puerto Rico)

26 states clarify the importance of AI literacy

11 states are working on integrating AI literacy into standards

6 states have AI literacy integrated into standards

3 states have AI literacy integrated into existing graduation requirements

University of Kentucky—Kentucky, U.S.

The University of Kentucky is taking a deliberate, people-centered approach, one that emphasizes access, responsibility, and shared learning across campus. The Commonwealth AI Transdisciplinary Strategy (CATS AI) is a governance framework designed to provide the scaffolding for responsible AI adoption. As part of this initiative, the university gave more than 70,000 students and employees access to Microsoft 365 Copilot. Now, students and employees are building solutions, sharing them with each other, and learning new AI strategies.

3

Why it matters: Preparing students for the future of work

Microsoft

Why it matters: Preparing students for the future of work

Students expect their educational institutions to meet this moment. Those who don’t learn to use AI effectively will find themselves without essential skills they’ll need in the workforce. The institutions leading the charge are identifying challenges, setting clear expectations, and helping students develop both the skills and judgment to use AI well.

AI skills are already a job requirement

AI will be key for successful careers—and the labor market won't wait for educational institutions to catch up. LinkedIn research shows that, from 2015 to 2030, approximately **70%** of the skills used in most jobs will change, with AI as a catalyst. What's more, 2025 research found that the percentage of jobs listing AI literacy as a requirement had increased sixfold in just one year.

"Knowing how to use AI effectively and responsibly is important for students' futures."

Educators and education leaders

Students

Survey question: To what extent do you agree with the following statement: Knowing how to use AI effectively and responsibly is important for my future/for students' futures.
Source: AI in Education Microsoft Study, 2026

A new type of entry-level job

Entry-level roles were once about learning the ropes of an industry. However, with AI supporting more administrative tasks, students entering the workforce will be expected to perform at a higher level than the entry-level professionals of the past.

What will this look like in practice for successful employees? An "agent boss" knows how to build, delegate to, and manage AI agents, treating them like direct reports. Students must arrive in the workforce with the skills to manage AI responsibly and effectively, critically assess AI outputs, and take ownership of the outcome.

Nearly half of Microsoft 365 Copilot Chat use supports analysis, reasoning, and decision-making (49%)—the kind of high-value work that once required deep expertise. Learn more from the 2026 Work Trend Index.

"The firms these students will join—or build—won't need entry-level workers trained for yesterday's jobs. They'll need professionals who can perform at the level of today's mid-career experts: capable of managing both people and agents, evaluating work, giving feedback, and deciding where to deploy human versus digital capacity."

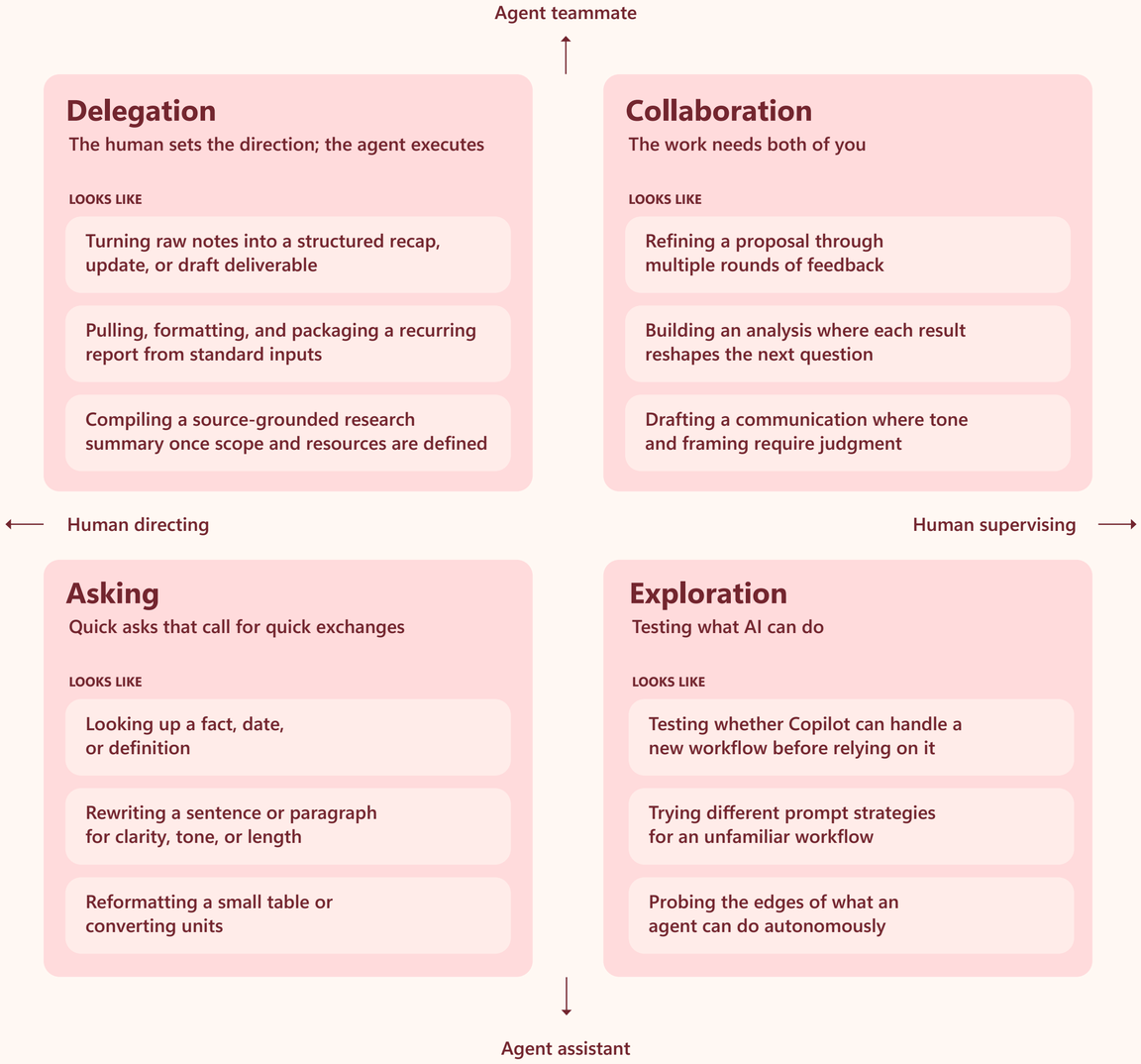
—Jared Spataro, Microsoft CMO of AI at Work

What it means to work with AI

As AI expands every employee's capabilities at work, it puts a premium on other human skills. When Microsoft surveyed AI users for the 2026 Work Trend Index, respondents noted that quality control of AI output (**50%**) and critical thinking (**46%**) are emerging as crucial skills. This means that students will need to learn how to analyze information objectively and make reasoned judgments.

Critical thinking is fundamental to how students and educators engage with AI in the first place. AI is not a neutral, always-correct source of truth—it generates responses that must be evaluated, challenged, and contextualized. Determining how to work with AI is a skill worth teaching.

Modes of working with AI



The future of work is here

AI is already driving transformation in every field. These examples from three industries show AI innovation in action—and the kind of work that students will encounter as they enter the workforce.

Cybersecurity: Students as analysts

Across the US, student-staffed security operation centers (SOCs) function as job training environments. At Auburn University, students triage real incidents, investigate suspicious activity, and help uncover vulnerabilities, with serious cases escalated to full-time staff.

Public sector: Flood forecasting

Jakarta's Smart City program integrates rainfall sensors, river gauges, and weather service data into a platform that forecasts flood risk. Authorities use that window to close floodgates, activate pumps, and push alerts to residents through a dedicated app. The system exemplifies the shift from reactive crisis response to proactive preparedness.

Research: Discovering new materials

Finding a material with specific mechanical, electrical, or magnetic properties has traditionally meant screening millions of candidates. MatterGen, trained on over 600,000 molecular structures, generates proposed materials that meet researcher-defined criteria. It works alongside MatterSim, which simulates how those proposed materials behave under different temperatures and pressures.

400,000+

Unfilled cybersecurity jobs in the US, a workforce gap that AI-assisted security operations are helping to ease

Up to 6 hours

Advance warning Jakarta's AI flood system gives authorities before disaster strikes

28 days

Time it took for University of Washington researchers to develop a new concrete formulation using AI—a process that used to take five years

Five new fundamentals

Experts in nine industries shared their insights about what AI readiness actually requires of students entering their fields. These were the expectations that surfaced consistently across all industries:

Want to go deeper? Microsoft's **"Preparing Students for the Future of Work: A guide to evolving skills and industries in the AI era"** examines what AI readiness looks like in a variety of fields—and what educators in each discipline can do now to prepare students. Read more.

1. **Elevated entry-level expectations:** Recent grads are expected to manage workflows and evaluate AI outputs from day one.
2. **Working with AI as a partner:** Students must know how to direct AI, assess what it produces, and refine it.
3. **Context engineering:** Students need to know how to prepare data, prompts, and constraints to get the best out of AI.
4. **Judgment, voice, and the human standard:** Discernment and unique points of view will increasingly define professional quality in a world flooded with AI-generated content.
5. **From credentials to capabilities:** Employers are hiring for skills, not just where or what students studied.

Success stories

Preparing students for the future of work

Indiana University Kelley School of Business—Indiana, U.S.
Students at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business use Copilot not just for coursework but as a collaborative tool, preparing them for AI-driven careers. Kelley supports this effort by integrating Copilot into business classes and offering targeted training to help students build practical AI skills and signal workforce readiness.

University of South Carolina—South Carolina, U.S.
Students at the University of South Carolina learned to use Copilot for their coursework and as a professional tool, preparing them for AI-driven workplaces. USC supported this effort by instituting an AI Certificate Program, helping students signal workforce readiness.

UC San Diego—California, U.S.
University of California San Diego's Computer Science Department began integrating AI coding assistants into select courses, and 59% of students said GitHub Copilot actively helped their learning of programming concepts.

Explore more AI success stories from schools and universities

Recommendations: Actions for education leaders

- **Align AI investment to your institution's broader strategy.** In an educational program focused on entrepreneurship, for example, AI can support how students create and bring ideas to market. AI should be positioned not just as a technology priority but as an investment that serves institutional goals.
- **Get buy-in from leadership** beyond just investing in technology. In the most successful schools, decision-makers are not only supportive but also active, capable AI users.
- **Establish an oversight committee** to define strategy and responsible use. Institutions might compose an AI task force with administrators, academics, and even students from high school and up.
- **Offer training,** including for teachers and administrators. AI support should be practical, subject-specific, and tailored by grade level.
- **Communicate** guidance and expectations. Educators and students need practical direction on when and how AI should be used responsibly. Clear policies, examples, and ongoing conversation can help build confidence and reduce uncertainty.

Recommendations: How educators can help students with AI use...

- **Teach students how they can collaborate with AI as a team member.** The real advantage comes in knowing when to work with AI versus with a human, and how to catch manipulation or errors.
- **Approach AI challenges as opportunities for developing new skills.** For example, some teachers who worry that students may use AI to cheat on written exams are moving toward oral presentations. Continuing to develop students' communication skills will also remain important. As AI-generated content becomes widespread, students will need to find their own uniquely human voice.

...and evolve their teaching skills with AI

- **Use AI to assist with tasks like report writing or lesson prep.** Then intentionally reinvest that time in higher-value student interactions, like personalized support.
- **Build AI literacy into the flow of what students are already learning.** Rather than treating AI as a separate add-on, weave it into existing projects so students learn to use AI to deepen their work.
- **Keep core learning principles as your North Star.** Design lessons around research-backed education principles—rich feedback, experiential projects, and social learning—and then use AI to extend and amplify those experiences, not replace them.

Going forward

Across schools and universities, AI usage is strong. But the data also reveals a clear gap between institutional efforts and lived experience: while many leaders say they are providing guidance and training, students and educators often still feel underprepared. Part of the challenge is that AI tools are evolving so rapidly that people's confidence can start to flag; they feel like they're constantly trying to catch up.

Closing the gap starts with investing in AI literacy and helping educators weave AI into everyday teaching and learning. It means providing clear guidance on when AI should and should not be used, and involving stakeholders across the institution in shaping policies and guardrails together.

From K–12 to universities, students and educators are already using AI. The institutions making progress treat AI not as a tool to master but as part of a broader effort to strengthen learning and human judgment in an increasingly AI-powered world.

Explore Microsoft innovations and programs to support AI-driven teaching, learning, and leading

References

AI in Education Microsoft Study, 2026
The survey was conducted by PSB Insights among 3,345 respondents across K–12 and higher education in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Brazil, Japan, and Saudi Arabia. Audiences included educators, education leaders (both IT and academic), and students age 13 and up. The online quantitative survey was fielded February 13–March 9. Global data is weighted based on World Bank education spend estimates. Read the extended survey data.

Case studies

- "UC Chile scales responsible AI with Azure OpenAI for more than 4,600 students" (February 11, 2026)
- "MLC School becomes first Australian school to deploy Security Copilot" (March 10, 2026)
- "Brisbane Catholic Education boosts agency and efficiency with Microsoft 365 Copilot" (May 12, 2025)
- "Broward County Public Schools scales Microsoft 365 Copilot in record K-12 deployment" (March 24, 2026)
- "University of Kentucky sparks campus-wide innovation with Microsoft 365 Copilot" (May 21, 2026)
- "Discovery Trust educators reclaim their weekends using Microsoft 365 Copilot" (December 22, 2025)
- "UC San Diego prepares students for AI-driven industry with GitHub Copilot" (May 13, 2026)
- "UC San Diego prepares students for AI-driven industry with GitHub Copilot" (May 13, 2026)

Research studies and reports

- Global Online Safety Survey 2026 (Microsoft)
- Empowering Learners for the Age of AI (AILit Framework)
- "Skills on the Rise in 2025" (Jen Dewar, March 26, 2025)
- "AI and the Global Economy: Unlocking Growth and Reshaping Work (LinkedIn, April 2025)
- "AI@Work: Work is changing fast. Education needs to catch up." (Jared Spataro, October 30, 2025)

The Work Trend Index Annual Report 2026
"2026 Work Trend Index Annual Report: Agents, human agency, and the opportunity for every organization" (May 2026)

The Work Trend Index survey was conducted by an independent research firm, Edelman Data x Intelligence, among 20,000 full-time employed or self-employed knowledge workers who use AI at work across 10 markets between February 18, 2026, and April 7, 2026. This survey was 20 minutes in length and conducted online, in either the English language or translated into a local language across markets. Two thousand full-time workers were surveyed in each market, and global results have been aggregated across all responses to provide an average. Global markets surveyed include: Australia, Brazil, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

U.S. state policies on AI

Microsoft scanned all publicly available state data, including state education agency websites and state board of education memos. To count as guidance, a state had to have official AI in education guidance developed or endorsed by the state education agency. To count as clarifying the importance of AI literacy, the state guidance had to include a definition for AI literacy and emphasize the fundamental role of AI literacy, such as the need for all students and educators to be AI literate. If standards development has been initiated by legislation or the State Education Agency and this information is publicly available, but the standards have not yet been published, this policy is considered "in progress." To count as state AI literacy standards, the state has standards for understanding how AI works, its societal impacts, and how to use AI responsibly. These standards can be 9-12 or K-12, mandatory or voluntary, and either integrated into an existing subject's standards or as a standalone AI literacy set of standards. To count as AI literacy graduation requirements, a state high school graduation credit must require AI literacy: understanding how AI works, its societal impacts, and how to use AI responsibly. The AI literacy requirement can be either integrated into an existing subject's gradation requirement or as a standalone AI literacy graduation requirement. The description of the AI literacy requirement must be publicly accessible.

Discover more insights in the extended survey data from the 2026 AI in Education Report

Microsoft

Get started with Microsoft Education

Develop your AI strategy

- Microsoft Education AI Toolkit
- AI Guidance for Schools Toolkit (TeachAI.org)
- IDC White Paper, sponsored by Microsoft, "A Blueprint for AI-Ready Campuses: Strategies from the Front Lines of Higher Education," #USUS53344625, May 2025
- "AI strategies from the frontlines of higher education"
- Microsoft Education Customer Stories

Try Microsoft AI solutions

- Overview of AI from Microsoft Education
- Get started with free AI tools
- Copilot Chat
- Microsoft 365 Copilot
- Microsoft Education

Resources to learn more

- Microsoft Learn AI for education: Resources and learning opportunities
- Microsoft 365 Copilot Chat resources for education
- Minecraft Education AI Foundations
- AI Classroom Toolkit
- Family Safety Toolkit

Explore the latest insights

- Preparing Students for the Future of Work
- 2025 AI in Education: A Microsoft Special Report
- 2026 Work Trend Index Annual Report
- Research on AI at work from WorkLab
- The New Future of Work from Microsoft Research

Stay up to date

- Microsoft Education Blog
- Follow Microsoft Education on LinkedIn, X, Facebook, and Instagram
- AI in Education website
- Microsoft 365 Copilot in education