



APS Artificial Intelligence (AI) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Last Updated: 8/25/25

1. What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

AI refers to technologies that simulate human intelligence using algorithms and data.

Generative AI tools can create text, images, audio, and video by learning patterns from existing data.

2. How is APS using AI in schools?

APS is integrating AI to:

- Enhance teaching and learning.
- Support personalized instruction.
- Improve operational efficiency.
- Promote equity and inclusion.

3. What generative AI tools will APS staff have access to during the 2025–2026 school year?

For the 2025–2026 school year, **APS staff** will have access to thoroughly vetted tools, including the following platforms:

- SchoolAI (primary instructional tool)
- Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, and NotebookLM (for planning and productivity)

4. What generative AI tools are approved for student use at this time?

Students in grades 6–12 could begin using generative AI tools in guided environments once specific requirements have been met by both staff and students, including:

Teacher Criteria

- Complete Level 1 and Level 2 of the SchoolAI Certified Educator training on the platform.
- Review SchoolAI's responsible use expectations **before** using it with students
- Use **approved tools** only when students are being *actively monitored* in class.

Student Criteria

- Complete the “Student Technology Acceptable Use Agreement” with the Instructional Technology Coordinator (ITC).
- Participate in a teacher-led review of safe and ethical AI use, which includes the acknowledgment of participation with a “SchoolAI Responsible AI Use” form.

These safeguards help students engage with and explore AI in safe, responsible, and age-appropriate ways.

5. Can students use public AI chatbots like ChatGPT, Copilot, or Gemini?

Students cannot use these tools on APS devices. Currently, student access to public AI tools is restricted due to approval requirements, including—but not limited to—age requirements and privacy regulations such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). APS piloted secure, vetted tools with more than 400 volunteer staff members during the “2024 Year of Exploration.” Students in grades 6–12 will be able to use SchoolAI within structured, teacher-led, and monitored classrooms.

6. How does APS ensure student safety and privacy with AI?

APS evaluates all digital resources, including AI tools, through a rigorous yearlong approval process involving Academics; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI); Information Services; School Support; Student Services; and APS Legal. We follow strict privacy laws (including FERPA and COPPA) and prioritize transparency, ethical use, and data protection in every decision.

7. Will AI be used to replace teachers or traditional instruction?

No. AI is designed to support—not replace—educators. It can help streamline tasks, generate instructional materials, personalize learning experiences, and boost student engagement. However, there is no substitute for a teacher’s ability to understand the nuances of student needs, build relationships, and guide learning with empathy and expertise.

8. How is APS preparing teachers to use AI in the classroom?

APS is preparing educators for AI integration through a multiphase professional learning plan. All instructional staff are expected to complete at least one course from the “APS GenAI for Educators” self-paced Canvas series, which builds foundational knowledge and practical skills. Teachers who complete all three courses and the additional assignment to provide evidence of their learning earn a certificate, digital badge, and “APS Certified GenAI Educator” designation.

In addition, each school’s ITC is leading a structured, school-based session aligned to the APS AI Framework. This session provides an overview of the content available in the course series and introduces SchoolAI as part of our “Year of Empowered AI Learning” initiative, helping all teachers explore both the challenges and opportunities AI brings to teaching and learning while building confidence around ethical use, instructional value, and student safety.

Quick one- to two-minute “AI Byte” videos will be shared throughout the year to offer practical guidance and highlight classroom-ready strategies.

9. How can parents stay informed about AI use in APS?

APS maintains a dedicated webpage with guidance documents, updates, and resources: [Year of Empowered AI Learning](#). APS will also hold a community engagement session in fall 2025, allowing parents to learn more about our use of SchoolAI.

A virtual session is tentatively scheduled for October 8, 2025 at 7:00pm. More information will be shared by the district as details are finalized.

10. What are the ethical concerns around AI in education?

APS is committed to helping students understand:

- The risks of misinformation and bias
- The importance of academic integrity
- How to use AI tools responsibly and critically

*We want students to be **critical thinkers and ethical digital citizens**.*

11. What are APS' expectations for ethical and transparent use of AI in classrooms?

APS has outlined expectations for both staff and students to promote responsible and transparent use of AI tools like SchoolAI:

Teacher Responsibilities

- Review the safe and ethical use of AI with students before introducing any tools, including examples of appropriate and inappropriate use.
- Clearly communicate the level of acceptable AI use for assignments or projects to both students and families.
- Model proper citations of AI use as appropriate

Student Responsibilities

- Communicate openly and honestly with teachers about how AI is being used.
- Follow the acceptable use guidelines for each assignment or project, as defined by the teacher.
- Use proper citation of AI use as needed

These expectations help build a culture of trust, integrity, and responsible digital citizenship in all AI-supported learning environments.

12. What is the guidance for student misuse of AI in schoolwork?

This guidance is offered in the **APS Handbook & Student Code of Conduct**: “Deliberately copying, creating, or submitting work that is not your own—including through the use of technology or AI tools—is considered cheating, plagiarism, or forgery. Students are prohibited from sharing work or discussing assessments with others unless explicitly permitted by the teacher. Students may be subject to consequences.”

13. Will AI be included in student handbooks or curriculum?

Yes. The district has begun to include AI-related policies in the **2025–2026 Student Rights & Responsibilities** (previously the handbook & Code of Conduct), the **Acceptable Use Student**

Technology Acknowledgment, and the **Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)**. Curriculum updates are underway to reflect AI literacy and responsible use.

A living guidance document can be found on the APS website: [APS Generative AI Guidance](#).

14. What factors did APS consider when selecting SchoolAI for the Generative AI pilot?

APS evaluated both SchoolAI and MagicSchool during the pilot and selected SchoolAI based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- Ease of use for educators
- Alignment with instructional goals
- Support for differentiated instruction
- Ethical design and transparency
- Quality of training and onboarding
- Feedback from pilot participants
- Technical support and integration
- Student safety and data privacy
- Vendor responsiveness and participation
- Environmental impact and sustainability considerations
- Bias review and equity alignment by the DEI staff

15. Does SchoolAI have third-party verification to ensure it complies with student data privacy laws like FERPA and COPPA?

Yes. SchoolAI has multiple layers of third-party verification and transparency measures in place to protect student data:

- **FERPA and COPPA Compliance:** SchoolAI meets federal requirements for student data privacy.
- **System and Organization Controls (SOC) 2 Type I Certification (2024):** An independent audit confirmed that SchoolAI has implemented a robust system of security controls aligned with national trust service criteria.
- **1EdTech TrustEd Apps Certification:** SchoolAI is recognized for secure and interoperable educational technology.
- **Public Monitoring Dashboard:** Districts can view real-time system status and data practices at <https://trust.schoolai.com>.
- **Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC):** SchoolAI has 393 active entries, representing approved data privacy agreements across many schools and districts—demonstrating widespread adoption and trust across the United States.
- **Transparent Communication Regarding Data:** SchoolAI publicly shares its data security and backend design practices at <https://schoolai.com/data-security>.