

A Parent's Guide to Artificial Intelligence (AI): Supporting Learning, Well-Being, and Integrity



Proposed additional content for: Parent Flyer for schools and additional content for the front facing Technology website for families.

A Parent's Guide to Artificial Intelligence (AI):

Supporting Learning, Well-Being, and Integrity

What Parents Need to Know

Why are we talking about AI?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is already part of everyday life; spelling suggestions, navigation apps, video recommendations, and voice assistants all use AI. In education, AI is increasingly used to support learning, creativity, and accessibility, while also raising important questions about privacy, academic integrity, and well-being.

At the Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie), AI is approached as a tool that supports learning, not something that replaces teachers, students' thinking, or human connection.

This guide is meant to help parents and caregivers:

- Understand what AI is (and what it isn't)
- Know how AI may be used at school
- Support responsible and healthy AI use at home
- Start meaningful conversations with children about AI

What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

Artificial Intelligence refers to computer systems that can perform tasks that usually require human intelligence, such as recognizing patterns, understanding language, or making predictions.

Generative AI is a type of AI that can create new content such as text, images, audio, or video based on prompts from users. Examples include chatbots and image generators.

Important to know:

AI tools can be helpful, but they can also:

- Make mistakes or give incorrect information
- Reflect bias from the data they were trained on
- Sound confident even when they are wrong

That's why human judgment and critical thinking always matter.

How is AI used at school?

AI use in schools is guided by Ministry direction, Grand Erie policies and educator judgment. Depending on the grade level and context, AI may be used to:

- Support differentiated learning or practice
- Assist teachers with lesson design or feedback
- Help students brainstorm, plan, or revise work (when permitted)
- Build digital literacy and critical thinking skills

Teachers are expected to be transparent with students and families about:

- If AI is being used
- How it is being used
- When AI use is appropriate and when it is not

For younger students, AI use is closely supervised and carefully selected to be age-appropriate.

Safety, Privacy, and Academic Integrity

Protecting student privacy

Privacy is a top priority.

Students should **never** enter personal or sensitive information into AI tools, such as:

- Full name, address, phone number
- Student numbers or login details
- Photos, videos, or voice recordings
- Information about classmates or teachers

At school:

- AI tools are reviewed for privacy and security
- Educators avoid tools that require students to create accounts or share personal data unless approved

- Families are informed when AI tools are used in learning

At home:

- Parents play an important role in reinforcing privacy awareness
- Encourage children to keep prompts general and non-identifying

AI and academic integrity

AI can support learning—but it can also be misused.

Students are expected to:

- Follow teacher expectations for AI use
- Do their own thinking and learning
- Be honest and transparent if AI was used
- Clearly explain **how** AI helped (for example: brainstorming or proofreading)

Using AI to create work and submitting it as entirely one's own is considered **academic dishonesty**.

Schools focus on:

- Teaching students *how* to use AI responsibly
- Designing assessments that value process, thinking, and understanding
- Treating mistakes as learning opportunities, especially for younger students

AI should support learning *not* replace it

A helpful way to think about AI is as a **study partner**, not an answer machine.

Healthy use means:

- AI helps students think more deeply
- Students can explain their learning in their own words
- Skills are developed, not skipped

Supporting AI Use at Home

Your role as a parent or caregiver

You do not need to be an AI expert to support your child(ren).

Parents and caregivers can:

- Stay informed about how AI is used at school
- Talk openly with teachers if questions or concerns arise
- Help children build digital literacy and critical thinking
- Monitor AI use at home with curiosity rather than fear

Practical strategies for families

Start with curiosity

- Ask what your child already knows or uses
- Listen without judgment
- Learn together. AI is new for everyone

Be a co-learner

- Position yourself as a partner, not the expert
- Share what you are learning
- Normalize conversations about technology

Separate school use and personal use

- Talk about when AI is allowed for schoolwork and when it isn't
- Remind children that school expectations may differ by teacher or assignment
- When unsure, encourage asking the teacher

Set clear boundaries (together)

- Agree on limits that reflect your family's values
- Be transparent about when and why AI is used
- Encourage questioning AI outputs instead of accepting them automatically

Watch for well-being and balance

AI should never replace healthy relationships, play, or learning.

Be alert to signs such as:

- Preferring AI over friends or family
- Using AI for emotional support instead of people
- Excessive time spent on AI chat apps
- Hiding AI use
- Using AI to avoid learning skills

If concerns arise:

- Start a calm, non-judgmental conversation
- Ask what the AI provides that feels helpful
- Redirect toward healthy alternatives
- Reach out to school supports if needed

Conversation Starters for Families

Use these prompts to keep AI discussions open, ongoing, and age-appropriate.

Getting started

- “What kinds of AI tools do you see or use?”
- “Where do you think AI shows up in your day?”
- “What do you like about using AI? What don’t you like?”

Learning and schoolwork

- “How did you decide whether AI was okay to use for this assignment?”
- “What part of this work shows *your* thinking?”
- “If AI helped you, how did it help—not do the work for you?”

Critical thinking

- “Do you think AI always gets things right? Why or why not?”
- “How could you check if an AI answer is accurate?”
- “What might AI miss that a human would notice?”

Privacy and safety

- “What information should never be shared with an AI tool?”

- “How can we tell if an app or tool is safe to use?”
- “Why do you think privacy matters online?”

Well-being and balance

- “How does using AI make you feel: frustrated, confident, curious?”
- “When is it better to ask a person instead of an AI?”
- “How can we make sure technology doesn’t replace time with people?”

A final thought

AI is not something to fear or ignore. It is something to learn about together.

When families and schools work as partners, students are better prepared to:

- Think critically
- Act ethically
- Protect their privacy
- Use technology in ways that support learning and well-being

If you have questions or concerns, your child’s teacher or school is always a good place to start.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is AI always allowed for schoolwork?

- Expectations vary by classroom/assignment. Students must follow the educator's direction and disclose/cite AI use as required.

How will I know if AI is used in classroom

- Grand Erie emphasizes transparency, so parents/caregivers understand when/where GenAI is leveraged.

How is privacy protected?

- Students are directed to limit identifiable information when using AI, and educators only use tools that have been vetted and approved by Grand Erie.

Resources & Where to Go Next

- [Board policy/procedure](#)

- [A printable at-home tip sheet](#)