

2025 California Education Focus Report

An Excerpt on AI in Education



The State of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in California Education

AI for Personalized and Engaged Learning

We spoke with dozens of educators about the potential of AI to engage students more effectively by personalizing learning experiences. Resoundingly, they shared that AI tools could help adapt instruction to student interests and needs, leading to more engagement and motivation.

“If technology can change the lesson to my likes—whether it’s football or horses—that’s going to be a big component for engagement. Tailoring it to students is key,” shares Erik Negroe, Data Analyst, [San Marino USD](#). “We hope AI will help rephrase questions or present material differently so students can understand better. That way, it’s not about replacing teachers, but enhancing what’s already happening in the classroom.”

Using AI in Schools

California school districts are split; more than one in three districts are not aware of using AI in any way. The remaining two-thirds are using AI for a variety of needs—namely curriculum and lesson planning, virtual assistants for student support, and AI for personalizing student and staff learning.

Reynolds shares, “We are very careful about student data privacy ... but personalized learning is at the forefront. We’ve already started work across the entire district with PowerSchool PowerBuddy™ ... seeing how that can be used, and we’re working with our edtech liaisons to figure out how we can have a larger rollout.”

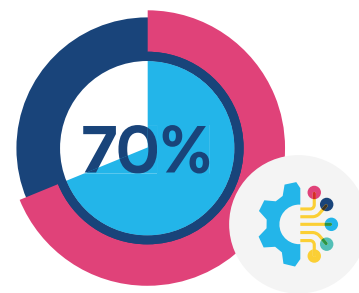
Top Forms of AI with Greatest Potential to Advance Personalized Learning

- Adaptive learning and assessment platforms
- Generative AI
- Conversational AI

California Educators’ Optimism on Potential of AI Similar to National Results

Our [2024 National Education Focus Report](#) found that 70% of district leaders agree or strongly agree with the potential of AI to enhance teaching and learning, which is a 17 percentage point jump from 53% in 2023.

California educators align exactly with this national finding, showing clear optimism about the potential of AI in education.



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Top Hurdles for AI in Schools

While AI holds potential, both district leaders and teachers have concerns. For example, they suspect that AI could erode student effort (especially in writing) and wonder whether it would interfere or usurp teachers' duties in the classroom.

Negroe also shares that “Teachers are concerned that AI will lead to students just plagiarizing or not really thinking. But we see it as a tool to enhance learning, not replace it.”

Gil Mara, Chief EdTech and Information Services Officer at **Torrance Unified School District**, shares, “There’s fear that AI will take over, but we’re trying to show them how it can complement their work, not take away from it.”

Indeed, staff and community perceptions about AI, and lack of experience with it, are two of the top three AI hurdles that California educators identify in our statewide survey. The other is data privacy and security concerns.

In many ways, connected data is vital to personalizing learning. We discuss top challenges, priorities, and lessons learned in the next section.

Top hurdles using AI in California:

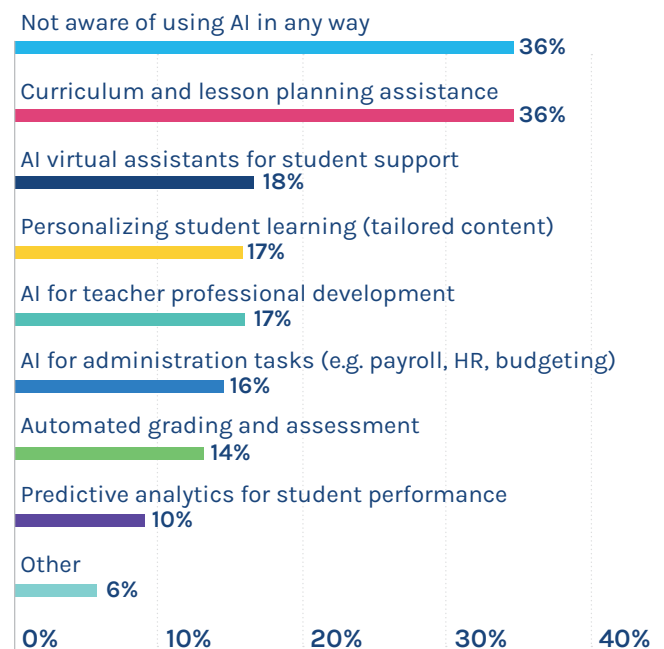
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1 Lack of skilled staff with expertise in AI/ML
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2 Data privacy and security concerns
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3 Staff or community perceptions

Select all the ways your school system is using AI currently



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