

AI News Digest

03/02/2026 - 03/08/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

AI's Role in Education Faces Ethical Scrutiny

Recent discussions highlight the complex interplay between artificial intelligence and education, particularly regarding ethical considerations. A study from Brown University raises alarms about the risks of using large language models like ChatGPT for mental health support. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Labor has introduced an AI Literacy Framework to guide responsible AI use in the workplace. As AI tools become more integrated into educational settings, the need for critical evaluation and ethical guidelines is increasingly urgent.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ Brown University identified 15 ethical risks of LLMs in mental health.
- ✓ The U.S. Department of Labor's AI Literacy Framework outlines five key competencies.
- ✓ Nearly 50% of high school students use AI in college search processes.

IMPLICATIONS

- Educational institutions must develop ethical guidelines for AI use.
- There is a growing need for AI literacy programs in schools and workplaces.
- The integration of AI in education could reshape traditional learning and assessment methods.

Key Metrics: 15 ethical risks identified in LLMs for mental health support.; 5 key areas of AI literacy defined by the U.S. Department of Labor.; 50% of high school students using AI for college-related decisions.

1. ChatGPT as a therapist? New study reveals serious ethical risks

Category: Research

Departments: Psychology, Political Science & Public Administration, Educational Leadership

Topics: AI Ethics, Crisis Situation Handling, Deceptive Empathy, Ethical Frameworks for AI

Impact Score: 27.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

New research from Brown University indicates that large language models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, are not adequately prepared to provide mental health support. The study identified 15 ethical risks associated with LLMs acting as counselors, including mishandling crisis situations, reinforcing harmful beliefs, and exhibiting deceptive empathy. The researchers developed a framework to map these behaviors to specific ethical violations, emphasizing the need for ethical, educational, and legal standards for AI in mental health contexts. The findings were presented at the AAAI/ACM Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics and Society, highlighting the importance of understanding the limitations of AI in therapeutic settings.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/03/260302030642.htm>

2. Teaching and learning in the age of generative AI: evidence-based approaches to pedagogy, ethics, and beyond

Category: Education

Departments: Educational Leadership, Engineering Education & Leadership

Topics: Generative AI, AI in Education, Ethical Assessment Practices, Personalized Learning Strategies, AI Competence Frameworks

Impact Score: 27.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 5

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The volume "Teaching and Learning in the Age of Generative AI," edited by Jean-Claude and Gilles Corbeil, addresses the integration of generative AI tools in educational contexts, emphasizing their impact on teaching, learning, assessment, and ethics. It presents a "Nested Framework for Implementing AI in Education," which offers a multilevel approach to connect institutional transformation, ethical practices, and personalized learning. The book includes case studies and discussions on effective classroom practices, ethical considerations in assessment, and strategies for preparing educators and students for an AI-driven future. Its primary contribution lies in theoretical synthesis, highlighting the need for integrated models in AI competence frameworks for education.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02954-6>

3. ASTRA 2025: Neuroimaging, Brain-Computer Interfaces, and AI

Category: Education
Departments: Electrical & Computer Engineering, Biological Sciences, Psychology, Computer Science, Educational Leadership
Topics: Healthcare AI, Brain-Computer Interfaces, Neuroimaging Techniques, Signal Processing Pipelines, AI Ethics

Impact Score: 27.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4	Educational Value: 5	Innovation / Novelty: 4
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 5	Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

ASTRA 2025 was an interdisciplinary summer school focused on neuroimaging, brain-computer interfaces (BCIs), and artificial intelligence, featuring lectures and hands-on workshops. Participants engaged with technologies such as electroencephalography (EEG) and BCIs, developing practical skills by working with real neuropsychological datasets and constructing signal-processing pipelines. The program emphasized collaboration across various disciplines, fostering communication and empathy skills while addressing ethical considerations in technology development. Ultimately, ASTRA 2025 aimed to inspire research engagement and innovation, equipping participants with the tools to contribute responsibly to the fields of neuroscience and AI.

<https://wpcms.computer.org/publications/tech-news/insider-membership-news/astra-neuroimaging-bci-ai/>

4. CFP: Feral Intelligence (FI): New Queer Approaches to Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI)

Category: Policy & Ethics
Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, Sociology & Anthropology, Computer Science, Educational Leadership
Topics: Generative AI, AI Empire, Data Resurgence, Algorithmic Justice

Impact Score: 26.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4	Educational Value: 4	Innovation / Novelty: 5
Practical Impact: 3	Interdisciplinary Potential: 5	Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article critiques Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) as a technology that perpetuates colonial and racial injustices, arguing that it is built on extracted data and exploitative labor practices. It highlights the concept of "AI Empire," which embodies the structural violence of colonialism and racial capitalism through algorithmic systems. The authors emphasize the importance of recognizing the harms caused by AI as inherent to these systems, while also acknowledging the resilience and innovative responses of marginalized communities. They advocate for a "data resurgence" that challenges the foundational assumptions of AI and promotes justice in the context of its impacts.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/03/cfp-feral-intelligence-fi-new-queer-approaches-to-generative-artificial-intelligence-gai/>

5. Understanding AI and learning outcomes

Category: Education

Departments: Educational Leadership, Engineering Education & Leadership

Topics: Education AI, Learning Outcomes Measurement, AI Impact Assessment, Systematic Evaluation Tools

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 5

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

OpenAI has launched the Learning Outcomes Measurement Suite, designed to evaluate the impact of artificial intelligence on student learning in various educational settings over time. This tool aims to provide a systematic approach to measuring educational outcomes influenced by AI technologies. The initiative seeks to enhance understanding of AI's effectiveness in improving learning experiences and outcomes for students.

<https://openai.com/index/understanding-ai-and-learning-outcomes>

6. Call For Papers: Special Issue on One Decade of GDPR - Contributions to Data Protection and Future Challenges

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, Computer Science, Engineering Education & Leadership

Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, Privacy-Enhancing Technologies, Data Protection by Design, Impact of Geopolitical Changes, Usability of Privacy Notices

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article announces a Special Issue dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), inviting submissions that critically assess its implementation and the effectiveness of other global data protection frameworks, such as the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA). It highlights the GDPR's role in enhancing data subject rights and accountability, while also noting ongoing challenges in practical application, particularly regarding Data Protection by Design and the usability of privacy notices. The article emphasizes the need for further development of privacy-enhancing technologies in light of emerging threats from advanced tracking and AI systems, and calls for research addressing the impact of geopolitical and technological changes on privacy principles. Submissions are due by December 1, 2026, with publication scheduled for July/August 2027.

<https://wpcms.computer.org/digital-library/magazines/sp/cfp-one-decade-gdpr-challenges>

7. Editors' Choice: No More Tools

Category: Education

Departments: Educational Leadership, Computer Science, Engineering Education & Leadership

Topics: Generative AI, AI in Digital Humanities, AI-Generated Code Integration, Critical Thinking in AI Use

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 5

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

The article discusses the impact of AI on Digital Humanities (DH), highlighting the increased importance of critical thinking when utilizing code in this field. The author shares experiences using Claude Code to develop DH web applications for educational purposes, arguing that AI has expanded the capabilities of traditional DH tools by eliminating reliance on pre-existing software. Additionally, the post illustrates how AI facilitates the integration of various DH tools and methodologies, while stressing the necessity of clearly defining objectives when engaging with AI-generated code.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/03/no-more-tools/>

8. Grammarly Is Offering 'Expert' AI Reviews From Your Favorite Authors-Dead or Alive

Category: Applications

Departments: Computer Science, Educational Leadership, Philosophy, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: Generative AI, Expert Review Systems, AI Grading Tools, Copyright in AI

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

Grammarly has expanded its AI capabilities, rebranding as Superhuman and introducing features that simulate feedback from both contemporary and historical authors and academics. The platform now includes tools such as an AI chatbot for drafting assistance, a paraphraser, a humanizer for stylistic revisions, and an AI grader for document evaluation. A notable addition is the "Expert Review" option, which allows users to receive critiques inspired by the works of real experts, although these individuals have no direct involvement with the process. Concerns have been raised regarding the legality of using the intellectual property of both living and deceased authors without permission, highlighting ongoing debates about copyright and content ownership in AI applications.

<https://www.wired.com/story/grammarly-is-offering-expert-ai-reviews-from-your-favorite-authors-dead-or-alive/>

9. U.S. Department of Labor Defines 5 Key Areas of AI Literacy

Category: Education
Departments: Educational Leadership, Computer Science, Engineering Education & Leadership
Topics: AI Literacy, Generative AI Applications, AI Evaluation Techniques, Workforce AI Training

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3	Educational Value: 5	Innovation / Novelty: 3
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The U.S. Department of Labor has introduced an AI Literacy Framework that outlines essential competencies for responsible use and evaluation of AI, particularly generative AI, in the workplace. The framework identifies five core areas of AI literacy: understanding AI principles, exploring real-world applications, directing AI effectively, evaluating AI outputs, and using AI responsibly. Additionally, it offers guidance for workforce and education systems, including training principles and recommendations aimed at enhancing AI education and training opportunities. The framework serves as a resource for program design for workers, employers, and educational institutions.

<https://campustechnology.com/Articles/2026/03/05/US-Department-of-Labor-Defines-5-Key-Areas-of-AI-Literacy.aspx>

10. Nearly half of high school students now use AI in college search

Category: Education
Departments: Educational Leadership, Engineering Education & Leadership
Topics: Consumer AI, AI in Education, College Application Optimization, Student Decision-Making Tools

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4	Educational Value: 5	Innovation / Novelty: 3
Practical Impact: 5	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

A national survey conducted by EAB involving over 5,000 high school students reveals that artificial intelligence is increasingly influencing students' decisions regarding college attendance, application processes, and areas of study. The findings indicate that AI tools are shaping how students discover and evaluate potential colleges, highlighting a significant shift in the college selection landscape. This research underscores the growing role of technology in educational decision-making among high school students.

<https://www.eschoolnews.com/digital-learning/2026/03/04/nearly-half-of-high-school-students-now-use-ai-in-college-search/>