

AI News Digest

08/10/2026 - 08/16/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

AI Integration in Education Sparks Student-Led Reforms

The increasing presence of artificial intelligence (AI) in education is prompting significant changes in how students learn and are assessed. Students are taking an active role in shaping the future of AI in education, proposing guidelines for its use in classrooms and exploring ways to integrate AI as a learning partner. Educators are also rethinking assessment methods to ensure they accurately reflect student learning. The integration of AI in education is expected to have far-reaching implications for student outcomes and the role of teachers.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ Students are proposing national guidelines for the use of AI in K-12 classrooms, highlighting the need for responsible AI use in education.
- ✓ AI-powered research tools like CoChat are being developed to help students navigate academic papers and mitigate 'citation hallucinations'.
- ✓ Educators are shifting towards assessments that require students to demonstrate real thinking and understanding, rather than just regurgitating information.

IMPLICATIONS

- The integration of AI in education is likely to lead to more personalized and effective learning experiences for students.
- As AI assumes more administrative tasks, teachers will need to focus on developing skills that are complementary to AI, such as critical thinking and creativity.
- The increasing use of AI in education will require ongoing evaluation and assessment to ensure that it is being used in ways that support student learning and well-being.

Key Metrics: 200 million: the number of academic papers that CoChat's AI-powered research tool can search.; 57%: the percentage of US teenagers who use AI-powered chatbots for searching for information.; 54%: the percentage of US teenagers who use AI-powered chatbots for helping with schoolwork.; 47%: the percentage of US teenagers who use AI-powered chatbots for entertainment.; 12%: the percentage of US teenagers who reported using chatbots for other purposes.; \$150,000: the amount of funding for a Delaware Pathways Middle Grades Grant project focused on career exploration and social-emotional learning.

1. Teaching With CoChat

Category: Research
Departments: Computer Science, Educational Leadership
Topics: Natural Language Processing, Citation Hallucination Mitigation, Large Language Models, Academic Research Tools, RAG

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

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

CoChat is an AI-powered research tool that utilizes large language models (LLMs) to search over 200 million academic papers and provide summaries of relevant research. The tool aims to mitigate "citation hallucination," a common problem in AI research tools, by automatically verifying citations. CoChat's features include the ability to compare answers from different models, summarize findings, and provide direct links to original papers. The tool is designed to assist educators, students, and researchers with deep research, but raises questions about its potential use in academic writing.

<https://www.techlearning.com/technology/ai/teaching-with-cochat>

2. On AI Policy, Students Have Plenty to Say

Category: Policy & Ethics
Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, Educational Leadership
Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, AI Literacy, Transparency in AI

Impact Score: 19.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 2
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

Student leaders from across the US gathered at the America's Youth AI Festival to propose national guidelines for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in K-12 classrooms. The students drafted a multi-faceted bill that includes provisions for transparency, literacy, and security, aiming to inspire adult leaders to develop similar policies. The proposed policy, known as the STUDENTS First Act, will be presented to 10,000 member districts for further discussion and debate. The goal is to create clear and consistent AI policies that reflect the experiences and priorities of students themselves.

<https://edsurge.com/news/on-ai-policy-students-have-plenty-to-say>

3. The K-12 Silo Won't Survive AI - But Our Relationships Might

Category: Education
Departments: Educational Leadership, Computer Science
Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Education AI, Human-AI Collaboration

Impact Score: 17.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 2
Practical Impact: 3	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

A team leading a \$150,000 Delaware Pathways Middle Grades Grant project sought to create a program focused on career exploration and social-emotional learning for students in grades 8-12. When discussing the impact of AI on education and workforce development, a student's question - "If AI will do everything, then what's the point of learning for us?" - prompted a shift in approach. The team subsequently engaged with professionals from various industries, including technology, higher education, and workforce development, who shared concerns about workforce shifts, ethics, and the implications of AI on human identity. These conversations highlighted the need for cross-sector collaboration to prepare students for an AI-centered future.

<https://edsurge.com/news/the-k-12-silo-wont-survive-ai-but-our-relationships-might>

4. Assessment After AI: Designing Student Work to Show Real Thinking

Category: Education
Departments: Educational Leadership, Teacher Education, Engineering Education & Leadership, Counseling and Special Education, Computer Science
Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Assessment Design, AI-generated Content Detection

Impact Score: 17.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2	Educational Value: 4	Innovation / Novelty: 3
Practical Impact: 3	Interdisciplinary Potential: 3	Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

The increasing availability of artificial intelligence (AI) in education is challenging traditional assessment methods, as AI can generate work that students submit. To address this, educators are shifting towards assessments that make students' thinking more visible, requiring them to explain their decisions, reflect on their process, and defend their thinking. This approach involves moving beyond product-only assessments and incorporating checkpoints, such as providing artifacts from their work and explaining their choices. By doing so, educators can gain a deeper understanding of students' learning and content retention.

<https://www.techlearning.com/technology/ai/assessment-after-ai-designing-student-work-to-show-real-thinking>

5. Supporting Early Childhood Educators

Category: Education

Departments: Teacher Education, Educational Leadership, Counseling and Special Education, Computer Science, Engineering Education & Leadership

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, AI in Education, Human Centered AI

Impact Score: 15.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 2

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

Researchers Nicol Russell and Dr. Nneka McGee discussed the needs of early educators in incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) into their work. Russell emphasized the importance of treating early educators as professionals, citing a connection between teacher retention and the effectiveness of curriculum, assessment, and coaching. McGee argued that introducing AI to young learners should start with conversations about people, rather than devices, and that children as young as five can understand AI tools with proper guidance. Their approaches aim to support early educators in effectively integrating AI into their practice.

<https://edsurge.com/news/what-do-the-youngest-learners-in-the-building-actually-need>

6. How kids feel about AI, in their own words

Category: Research

Departments: Educational Leadership, Computer Science, Counseling and Special Education, Teacher Education, Psychology

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Human AI Interaction, Adolescent AI Perception

Impact Score: 14.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 1

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 2

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

A recent survey by the Pew Research Center found that US teenagers primarily use AI-powered chatbots for innocuous purposes, such as searching for information (57%), helping with schoolwork (54%), and entertainment (47%). Only 12% of teens reported using chatbots for emotional support or advice. Interviews with elementary- and middle-school-age kids revealed that they often encounter AI through parents, schools, or embedded features in devices and apps, and tend to be cautious about its use. The findings suggest that young people may be able to teach adults about AI and are concerned about its potential societal impact.

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2026/08/13/1141410/how-kids-feel-about-ai-own-words/>

7. Call For Papers: Special Issue on Quantum Computing

Category: Research
Departments: Computer Science, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Mathematical Sciences, Physics, Engineering Education & Leadership
Topics: Science & Research, Quantum Algorithms, Quantum Error Correction, High-Performance Computing, Fault-Tolerant Systems

Impact Score: 14.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2	Educational Value: 4	Innovation / Novelty: 1
Practical Impact: 2	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

A special issue of the journal Computing in Science & Engineering (CiSE) aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of quantum computing and its integration with High-Performance Computing (HPC). The issue seeks submissions on quantum algorithms, hardware, software, and applications, as well as practical challenges such as quantum error correction and error mitigation. The goal is to educate the scientific and engineering communities on the promises and challenges of quantum computing and provide a roadmap for the transition from Noisy Intermediate-Scale Quantum (NISQ) era to fault-tolerant systems. Submissions are due by January 26, 2027.

<https://wpcms.computer.org/digital-library/magazines/cs/cfp-quantum-computing>

8. Student Voices: Technology as a Future Learning Partner

Category: Education
Departments: Educational Leadership, Computer Science, Engineering Education & Leadership, Teacher Education, Counseling and Special Education
Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Adaptive Learning Systems, Human Machine Collaboration

Impact Score: 13.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 2
Practical Impact: 2	Interdisciplinary Potential: 3	Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

Researchers and students discuss the emerging concept of "technology learning partners" that participate in the learning process by asking questions, providing feedback, and facilitating collaborative knowledge creation. These advanced technologies go beyond simply providing information, instead engaging with learners in a more interactive and adaptive way. The notion of technology learning partners is not limited to AI, but can be achieved through various tools, such as collaborative editing software. Today's student experiences with AI and other technologies will inform the development of future human/machine learning partnerships.

<https://campustechnology.com/articles/2026/08/10/student-voices-technology-as-a-future-learning-partner.aspx>

9. How RingCentral builds AI-native work from engineering to ops

Category: Business
Departments: Computer Science, Engineering Education & Leadership
Topics: Enterprise AI, AI-native Development, Generative AI Applications

Impact Score: 12.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1	Educational Value: 2	Innovation / Novelty: 2
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 2	Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

RingCentral has introduced AI-native development practices across its organization, providing employees with access to tools like ChatGPT Work and Codex to build products and infrastructure. The company's AI-Native Challenge, which encouraged employees to develop end-to-end projects using these tools, resulted in thousands of functioning projects, including from non-technical staff and executives. The initiative aims to accelerate product development, with AI used to amplify the work of engineers rather than replace them. By adopting AI-native practices, RingCentral's teams, including its Program Management Office, have improved efficiency and reduced manual coordination.

<https://openai.com/index/ringcentral>

10. How A Teenage Carpenter Became The Founder Of AI Construction Startup Trunk Tools

Category: Business
Departments: Computer Science, Industrial, Manufacturing & Systems Engineering, Civil, Environmental & Construction Engineering, Engineering Education & Leadership, Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering
Topics: Enterprise AI, AI in Construction, Project Management Automation, Non-Tech Founder Success

Impact Score: 11.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 0	Educational Value: 1	Innovation / Novelty: 2
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 3	Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

Sarah Buchner, a non-tech founder, leveraged her blue-collar background to identify inefficiencies in construction project management. She developed an AI-based solution aimed at helping construction companies manage projects more efficiently. The approach utilizes AI agents to improve project management. This innovation secured venture funding, highlighting the potential for non-tech founders to access funding for AI-driven solutions.

<https://news.crunchbase.com/venture/carpenter-founder-ai-construction-startup-trunk-tools-buchner/>