



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

Date: July 22, 2025

RE: Guidance on the Use of Federal Grant Funds to Improve Education Outcomes Using Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Dear Colleague:

As part of the U.S. Department of Education's (Department's) commitment to educational excellence, innovation, and opportunity for every learner, the Department is issuing this guidance regarding the use of formula and discretionary grant funds to support improved outcomes for learners through the responsible integration of artificial intelligence (AI). The Department encourages grantees to explore how AI can enhance teaching and learning, expand access, and support educators, without replacing the critical role they play. This guidance outlines how AI may be used across key educational functions and affirms that such uses are allowable under existing federal education programs, provided they align with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

1. AI-Based High-Quality Instructional Materials

Federal education funds may be used to:

- Develop or procure AI-powered instructional tools that adapt to learner needs in real time.
- Expand access to high-quality, personalized learning materials across all subjects, grade levels, and learning environments.
- Train educators, providers, and families to use AI tools effectively and responsibly.

2. AI-Enhanced High-Impact Tutoring

Grantees may support:

- Intelligent tutoring systems that provide individualized academic support with real-time assessment.
- Hybrid models where human tutors are complemented by AI-based learning platforms.
- Diagnostic and scheduling tools that use AI to match learners with tutoring services based on need.

3. AI for College and Career Pathway Exploration, Advising, and Navigation

Funds may also be directed toward:

- Platforms that leverage AI to help students identify career interests, explore pathways, and make informed choices.
- Virtual advising systems that guide students through course planning, financial aid, and transitions to postsecondary education or careers.

- Predictive models that support educators in identifying students in need of additional advising or support services.

Principles for Responsible Use

The Department affirms the following principles for all AI-related educational initiatives:

- **Educator-led:** AI should support teachers, providers, tutors, advisors, and education leaders.
- **Ethical:** Within the K-12 realm in particular, educators should help students navigate AI to be able to evaluate the validity of AI outputs, to understand the appropriate use of AI in the context of social media, to learn with – rather than exclusively from – AI, and to leverage the promise of AI to be contributing members of a free society.
- **Accessible:** AI tools or systems should be accessible for those who require digital accessibility accommodations, including children, educators, providers, and family members with disabilities.
- **Transparent and explainable:** Stakeholders, especially parents, should understand how systems function and participate meaningfully in decisions about the adoption and deployment of new technologies.
- **Data-protective:** Systems must comply with federal privacy laws including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

The Department expects grantees to apply sound judgment and partner with researchers, educators, and communities to ensure the effective, safe, and ethical deployment of AI. We look forward to working with you to responsibly harness the potential of AI to support learners, empower educators, and strengthen our education system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda E. McMahon", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Linda E. McMahon