

EDUCATION FOR AI: ENHANCING LEARNING, EMPOWERING TEACHERS

by:

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Artificial intelligence is no longer just a futuristic and idealistic concept; it has made its way into classrooms.

Teachers have been using AI in various ways, from planning lessons and activities to generating visual instructional materials such as infographics. In fact, UNESCO (2026) has recognized the potential of artificial intelligence to address challenges in education by fostering innovative teaching practices and fast-tracking towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, provided that it is implemented ethically and responsibly through a human-centered approach. At the same time, it is essential to recognize the opportunities and responsibilities linked to AI, to ensure that this technology serves only as a tool to support, and not replace the expertise of educators. As AI continues to evolve, teachers must develop the knowledge and skills to integrate these technologies effectively and ethically in ways that enhance the teaching and learning process. Thus, understanding the capabilities, application, and limitations of AI is essential for educators in the advancing learning environment.

To better understand its role in education, it is important to first define what artificial intelligence is. Artificial intelligence is referred to as the computer systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, including reasoning, problem-solving, perception, and language processing. These systems operate either through rule-based (if-then) algorithms, or learn based from existing data patterns (JMU Libraries, 2026).

In the context of education, AI refers to the digital tools that use algorithms, predictive models, and large language models to assist with planning, learning, assessment, and instruction (Healey, 2025) .

AI technologies used in education can be grouped into several categories based on their primary functions. Some of the most commonly used AI in education are generative AI, AI-powered assessment tools, and assistive tools. Generative AI is the most common, as this includes ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini, helping teachers create lesson plans, instructional materials, classroom activities, and learning resources. AI-powered assessment tools like Gradescope and Socrative AI are also used to grade, provide feedback, and analyze student performance. And lastly, assistive AI such as speech-to-text, text-to-speech, captioning tools, and screen-readers, promote accessibility especially for the diverse learning needs (AI-ENABLE, 2023) .

One of the significant contributions of AI in Education is its ability to empower teachers. A 2024 research reveals that 82% of teachers believe AI was able to improve their teaching efficiency (Alexander & Endo, 2024). Teachers already use AI to draft lesson outlines and assessments, presentations, generate rubrics and practice test questions. This allows them to give more time in improving their delivery of instruction and addressing the needs of the students. By leveraging AI to significantly reduce teacher workloads, teachers spend less time doing administrative work and shift their focus in their quality of instruction and creative teaching.

Despite its numerous advantages, the integration of AI in education also presents significant challenges and ethical concerns. Issues such as data privacy, academic integrity, algorithmic bias, and unequal access to technology must be carefully addressed to ensure responsible implementation. Recognizing these challenges, UNESCO (2025), together with the International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa, has developed

AI competency frameworks and guidance for policymakers and educators to promote the ethical, safe, and effective adoption of AI. Additionally, DepEd Order No. 003, s. 2026 establishes Foundational Guidelines on Artificial Intelligence in Basic Education which emphasizes “human-centered” use of AI in the Philippines. These frameworks and guidelines emphasize protecting privacy, strengthening teachers' professional competencies, and ensuring that human values remain at the heart of education. They call for a shift from the notion of “AI for Education” to “Education for AI,” emphasizing that education must not be driven by artificial intelligence; instead, AI must be guided by the knowledge, values, and judgment shaped by education.

Artificial intelligence has the potential to enhance learning and empower teachers by making education more effective and accessible. However, these benefits also come with the responsibility to use AI ethically and responsibly. Like any other educational technology, AI is a tool that supports teachers—not one that replaces them. With proper guidance and responsible use, AI can help create better learning experiences while ensuring that teachers remain at the center of education.

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