



How can I help you?...



AI, Ed Tech and Public Education

The Massachusetts Teachers Association, the voice of 117,000 educators across the Commonwealth, is deeply concerned about artificial intelligence and the harm it will cause to student learning, student cognitive development and the craft of teaching.

We believe that the Commonwealth needs to keep AI out of public education until we fully understand its risks and dangers. Our students have already been negatively impacted by the expansion of education technology, increased screen time and social media. We must protect our students from continued harm from big tech companies.

The future of education should be shaped by educators, students, families and communities – not by technology companies that are willing to experiment on students and gather vast amounts of personal data about students and families.

AI Is Not a Substitute for Teaching

The introduction of artificial intelligence into our schools is the latest wave in a long history of education gimmicks created by companies that prioritize profits over our students. We don't need another ed tech tool; we need well-funded public schools with educators who have the support, time and resources necessary to provide meaningful learning experiences for their students.

Education is not simply the delivery of information. At its core, it is a human connection between educators and students built on trust, mentorship, creativity and critical thinking. The work that educators do with their students cannot be replaced by an automated system.

Protecting Our Work and Our Craft

The introduction of AI raises important questions about the future of teaching and the professional expertise of educators. We are fighting to protect:

- The knowledge, skills and judgment required to teach students.
- The time and resources needed to provide meaningful instruction.
- Professional autonomy and instructional discretion.
- Job security, dignity of work and labor rights.
- The value of educator-student relationships at the center of learning.

Technology should support educators – not diminish their role or redefine education as a product that can be automated.

Safeguarding Student Health, Development, Well-Being and Data

We have a responsibility to protect students' cognitive development, social-emotional growth, overall well-being and data. Increased reliance on AI systems raises concerns about:

- Reduced opportunities for independent thinking, creativity and problem-solving.
- Greater dependence on automated tools rather than human guidance.
- Impacts on student attention, relationships and healthy development.
- The collection and use of student data by private technology companies.

Students deserve learning environments that prioritize cognitive and social emotional development over efficiency and automation.

AI and the Broader Push Toward Privatization and Standardization

The expansion of artificial intelligence in education must be understood within a larger pattern of education technology reforms that emphasize privatization and standardization over education's contributions to the public good.

"AI Literacy" is a Trojan Horse. It is the latest in a long line of attempts to fracture public education. This is right out of the playbook used by the proponents of charter schools and privatizing our public schools. Only this time it poses additional harm to learning and the social and emotional development of our students.

Concerns about AI are connected to broader questions:

- Who controls educational decisions and data privacy?
- Who benefits financially from new technologies introduced into schools?
- Are technology solutions addressing the real needs of students and educators – or creating new markets for private companies?

Our Commitment & Call to Action

Public education is a fundamental human right. The heart of public education lies in authentic connections, professional judgment and cultural responsiveness that only human educators can provide. True learning requires vulnerability, empathy and mutual trust which cannot be automated, programmed or outsourced to artificial intelligence.

We are calling for:

- Respect for educators' professional expertise and labor.
- Students' right to healthy cognitive and social and emotional development.
- Classrooms centered on relationships, curiosity and critical thinking.
- Thoughtful review of potentially harmful technologies before they become embedded in our schools.



Join Us in Calling for a Moratorium on All Student-Facing Generative AI Products in PreK-12 Schools.

massteacher.org/ai

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A DIVERSE UNION
of EDUCATION
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