What We're Hearing:
Insights from the Field About AI-Powered Edtech

ISTE+ASCD is working with education organizations across the country to support transformational teaching and learning with artificial intelligence (AI). As we develop additional guidance for evaluating AI-powered edtech products, we asked teachers, education leaders, edtech providers, and industry experts to share their thoughts. These conversations surfaced four critical themes: AI's impact on student learning, teaching, edtech product design, and school implementation strategy. This infographic highlights some key considerations and questions about each theme within a K-12 school or district context.

Impact on Learning

AI-powered edtech products can help educators improve student achievement by enabling more transformative learning experiences. AI has the potential to:

- Enable greater and more effective differentiation and personalization at an individual level.
- Provide greater insight from data for teachers and education leaders tracking student learning gains and gaps.
- Better enable teachers to support learners in transformative learning practices such as elevating reflection and sparking curiosity.

Questions to consider:
How does the product allow for greater personalization of the learning experience at an individual student level? How might it lift learning for all students?

Impact on Teaching

AI-powered edtech products have the potential to help teachers both reduce workload and transform their practice creatively.

- AI can help teachers discover innovative ways to teach, such as suggesting new instructional strategies and sparking creativity.
- AI-powered edtech invites educators and instructional leaders to rethink assessment, including how to design better, more authentic assessments.
- AI-powered edtech can increase efficiency and reduce workload by completing tasks for teachers such as helping with lesson planning, drafting emails, and generating quiz questions. AI should help, not replace, teachers.

Questions to consider:
How does the product support instructional innovation and more authentic assessments? How does it provide teachers additional time and space to connect with their students?

Impact on Edtech Design

AI-powered edtech products should be designed in a way that is culturally relevant, transparent, and human-centered.

- AI-powered products must be culturally relevant and reflect the diverse experiences of the students and teachers within school communities.
- Transparency for teachers and leaders is critical, especially knowing how a product is using AI, how AI models are trained and developed, and how student data are stored and used.
- Use a human-centered approach to product design. It's essential to involve teachers, education leaders, and students in the development of AI-powered edtech.

Questions to consider:
How does the product store and use student data? Is it clear what data the product's AI capabilities are trained with?

Implementation Strategy

Just like any edtech product, AI-powered edtech needs to be thoughtfully implemented within an existing system.

- Educators need support to use AI effectively, including professional learning around AI literacy (e.g. the potential, limitations, and risks of AI), examples of what works, and guidance on responsible AI use.
- Education leaders need to create data governance policies that establish guardrails for what data AI-powered products can access, and how they can use those data.
- Update and distribute acceptable use policies to address AI-powered use cases in compliance with district policies and relevant laws (e.g. COPPA, FERPA).

Questions to consider:
How will teachers be provided with effective AI literacy training? How can we adapt existing acceptable use policies in the context of AI?

GenerationAI is a groundbreaking educational movement led by ISTE+ASCD alongside six coalition partners designed to empower K-12 educators with the knowledge, tools, and confidence to safely and responsibly capture the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the classroom.

Learn more and Join the Movement at generationai.org.

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