SOUTHERN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTABLE USE OF GENERATIVE AI
APRIL 2025

Artificial intelligence refers to computer systems that can perform tasks that usually require human intelligence, like learning, problem-solving, and understanding language. Generative AI (GenAI) is a type of artificial intelligence that can create new content, such as text, images, music, or code, based on large amounts of data.

GenAI offers an exciting opportunity to enhance learning, creativity, and problem-solving in the classroom. Southern Regional School District is committed to the careful integration of these tools while maintaining a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment for both students and staff.

Southern Regional School District strives to foster a learning environment that embraces the responsible use of GenAI by:

- Empowering students and teachers to use GenAI as a tool for creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving.
- Promoting ethical AI use aligned with our values of academic integrity and respect.
- Enhancing, not replacing, the human elements of teaching and learning.

KEY PRINCIPLES OF GENERATIVE AI USE

The following principles guide the appropriate and safe use of AI and address current and future educational goals, teacher and student agency, academic integrity, and security.

We use AI to help all our students achieve their educational goals. We will selectively use AI to help us improve student learning, teacher effectiveness, and school operations.

We will continue to protect student privacy and security. We will not share personally identifiable information with AI systems. Students and staff will not input personally identifiable, sensitive, or confidential information into GenAI tools.

We educate our staff and students about AI. Learning to use AI is an emerging skill. AI literacy among students and staff is central to addressing the risks of AI use. Students and staff will be given support to develop their AI literacy, which will include how to use AI, when to use it, and how it works.

We explore the opportunities of AI and address the risks. We will work to explore the benefits of AI in education, address risks associated with using AI, and evaluate when to use AI tools, paying special attention to misinformation and bias.

We are committed to academic integrity. Honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility continue to be expectations for both students and teachers. All sources and content generated by AI must be cited. Students will present work that is genuinely their own for evaluation and feedback.

We will maintain student and teacher agency when using AI tools. Staff and students will learn to be critical consumers of AI and will be responsible and accountable for decision-making processes where AI systems are involved.

We will monitor and evaluate our use of AI. AI is evolving rapidly, we commit to frequent and regular reviews and updates of our policies, procedures, and practices.

ACCEPTABLE USE FOR STUDENTS

We recognize that responsible uses of AI will vary depending on the context, such as a classroom activity or assignment. Teachers will clarify if, when, and how AI tools will be used. Appropriate AI use will be guided by specific parameters defined for an activity.

Learning Support:
- Use AI tools to generate practice questions and quizzes for review.
- Summarize notes, readings, or classroom discussions for better understanding.
- Develop timelines or study plans for managing projects or exams.
- Use spelling or grammar checkers.

Creative Work:
- Refine brainstormed ideas for essays, stories, or projects.
- Use AI-powered design tools to create visuals for class presentations or projects.

Collaboration:
- Develop solutions to problems posed during collaborative assignments.
- Experiment with AI to role-play historical figures, characters from literature, or civic leaders for group discussions.

Research Assistance:
- Use generative search engines to gather information from reputable sources, ensuring proper citation of all data used.
- Ask AI tools to explain complex concepts or terms encountered during independent study.

Outputs generated by AI may be inaccurate, inappropriate, or incomplete. Students and staff must critically evaluate all AI output to be sure that information is credible, unbiased, and relevant to their inquiry.

PROHIBITED USES OF GENERATIVE AI

Teachers will communicate expectations on the use of AI tools in the classroom, syllabus, or assignment instructions so students know if, when, and how AI tools can be used. Using AI in any of the following ways is a violation of board policy and may result in academic and/or disciplinary consequences outlined in the student handbook.

Academic Dishonesty
- Using AI to generate entire assignments.
- Presenting AI-generated content as original work without proper citation.

Inappropriate or Harmful Content
- Generating offensive, discriminatory, or otherwise inappropriate content.
- Misusing AI to create or spread misinformation, bullying, or defamatory materials.

Violation of Privacy
- Inputting personal, sensitive, or confidential information about themselves or others into AI tools.

A copy of this plan will be posted in the parent portal, and parental consent will be requested annually for students to be permitted to use AI for assignments in accordance with this AI Plan.