ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

This document expresses the mission, vision, values, intent, and goals of the Vigo County School Corporation (VCSC) in the use of AI in the work of the district.

Vision

VCSC envisions a learning environment where AI enhances human potential, empowering educators, personalizing learning, and preparing students for success in an increasingly AI-informed world. This position statement encourages the safe use of innovative technology to prepare students for future school and work to improve student outcomes and support the appropriate use of technology to advance learning.

Mission

The district will integrate AI tools and practices in ways that are purposeful, ethical, and data-informed. VCSC will build capacity for AI literacy for students and educators *while ensuring data privacy, promoting equity of access, and maintaining the human-centered values that define great teaching and learning.*

Introduction to AI

The educational landscape fundamentally shifted with the November 2022 launch of ChatGPT, marking the beginning of AI's integration into classrooms. This release, and the subsequent emergence of numerous generative AI tools, sparked intense interest among educators and students regarding their potential, while simultaneously raising significant concerns about misuse. Generative AI models are defined by their ability to produce novel text, images, audio, video, or code by predicting a response based on user prompts and their vast training data. The speed of this technological adoption is unprecedented, making the proliferation of generative AI the most rapid technological innovation in history.

- Core Guiding Principles/Human-Centered Learning: AI strengthens, but does not replace, professional judgment and relationships.
- AI Literacy: Educators and students learn how AI works and how to use it responsibly.
- Alignment with Educational Goals: AI supports meaningful academic and organizational goals.
- Continuous Improvement: AI practices evolve as technology advances.
- Ethical and Equitable Practice: AI minimizes bias and promotes accessibility.

Instruction and Learning

AI tools enhance educator productivity by streamlining classroom tasks and informing instructional decisions. This efficiency creates more time for teachers to build relationships, refine content, and focus on designing rigorous, standards-aligned instruction that meets learner needs. When integrated into lesson planning, AI supports educators in curating differentiated resources, generating instructional materials, and aligning learning experiences to targeted outcomes. AI also helps personalize learning for all students by enabling educators to tailor content, pacing, and support to individual strengths and needs.

Through classroom integration, students learn to engage with AI tools while critically evaluating their benefits, risks, and ethical implications. These experiences foster creativity, complex problem solving, and continuous learning. As students interact with AI, they develop independence and transferable skills that prepare them for the future of work and empower them to act as informed citizens. When instruction is supported by AI, students gain access to content aligned with their learning needs, enabling both academic recovery and enrichment while deepening understanding through personalized pathways.

Connection to High Reliability Schools (HRS) Framework

Within HRS Level 2: Effective Teaching in Every Classroom - AI enhances day-to-day instruction by giving teachers access to real-time insights about student understanding. AI-supported formative assessment tools help teachers identify misconceptions earlier, adjust instruction more precisely, and differentiate learning paths for individuals and groups. With more productivity tools, AI assists educators in dedicating more time to student interaction, small-group instruction, and the higher-order thinking experiences that define effective teaching.

Within HRS Level 3: Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum - AI improves curriculum consistency across the district by helping educators align materials to standards, identify gaps, and generate high-quality supplemental resources. Teachers can use AI to quickly curate vetted content, enrich pacing guides, and develop scaffolded materials so that all students receive equitable access to rigorous instruction. AI-supported analysis of student performance patterns also helps schools ensure the curriculum remains viable, accessible, and responsive to learner needs.

Impact

AI literacy represents the technical knowledge, durable skills, and future-ready attitudes required to thrive in a world influenced by artificial intelligence. When students are taught AI principles, they can transfer their learning to real-world contexts where AI is actively shaping daily life, career pathways, and civic engagement. Students learn to critically evaluate AI systems, understand how data is used to train models, and recognize the potential for bias. They use AI to boost thinking and creativity, leveraging tools to support—rather than replace—their own critical thought and original expression. Educators who explore and practice using AI tools are better equipped to evaluate AI outputs critically and design instruction that enhances content understanding while preserving academic rigor. By intentionally integrating AI into curriculum and instruction, educators promote student independence and cultivate transferable skills. Preparing students for a rapidly evolving world ensures they are ready to enroll in higher education, enlist in the military, or enter the workforce as informed, empowered citizens.

Security and Guardrails

VCSC has added AI to its comprehensive Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Use Policy (A300), outlining conditions and standards for responsible use of technology, electronic communication, and access to information. AI tools are powerful but must be used responsibly to protect student data and ensure compliance with federal regulations. As noted in AI Guidance from the Indiana Department of Education and School Board policy (A300), AI use in all facets of district operations, not just academic use, must adhere to all applicable laws, including but not limited to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).

To support secure and informed implementation, VCSC will utilize guidance and resources from the Indiana Department of Education, including foundational AI safety principles. For instance, regarding safety, staff must ensure that no personally identifiable information (PII) is entered into public-facing AI tools or otherwise used in AI tools without district permission. These resources help educators make decisions about AI use that align with state expectations and national best practices. Families will be engaged in conversations about AI safety, helping children of all ages understand how to navigate AI responsibly. All stakeholders will follow Board policies regarding student data and ensure that AI tools used in classrooms are developmentally appropriate and approved for educational use.

Scope of Application

This position statement applies to all AI use at school, on school devices, or for schoolwork by students, educators, administrators, and district staff. AI may be used to support instruction and learning, assist educators with planning and feedback, promote AI literacy, and enhance district operations. All AI use must comply with applicable state and federal laws and align with district-approved tools and platforms.

Board policy will provide clarity about who the guidance applies to and define acceptable and unacceptable uses of AI, while avoiding overly broad restrictions that could hinder innovation. AI literacy elements—such as transparency, citation, and appropriate use—will be embedded across stakeholder groups. The district will maintain flexibility in its approach, recognizing that AI is a rapidly evolving space and policies must adapt as new innovations and learning needs emerge.

Stakeholder Engagement and Transparency

This document provides families and community members with clear communication about the planned use of AI in schools. Related communication tools may include informational sessions, newsletters, and teacher communications, of instructional and operational applications. Families will have opportunities to provide feedback as they participate in the continuous school improvement process with schools.

Risk Mitigation and Ethical Use

- Human Oversight: All AI-assisted decisions require human review.
- Data Privacy: AI use must follow all applicable laws, including FERPA and COPPA. For example, PII must not be provided in public tools or otherwise without permission from district administration
- Age Appropriateness: AI tools used by students must be appropriate for their age range according to guidelines and recommendations from IDOE and school district curriculum outlines.

- Academic Integrity: AI content must be properly cited; detection tools should not be used alone.
- Equity: AI supports diverse learners and expands opportunities.
- Bias Mitigation: Educators evaluate outputs to minimize bias.
- Ongoing Review: AI practices will be regularly assessed for compliance and relevance.

The Way Forward to Elevate Human Potential

Respect for relationships with students and staff is paramount; AI should amplify, not replace, human interactions and facilitate teamwork, both with each other and with the tools. We believe this collaboration will foster excellence, spur innovation, and ensure that AI is used in service to us.

Safety and well-being are crucial; AI systems used in our schools should be secure, privacy-conscious, and not detrimental to the mental and emotional health of users, while minimizing bias.

Every decision regarding the use of AI in education should be carefully examined with teamwork and through the lens of these values, ensuring that technology serves as a tool for enhancing, rather than undermining the foundational principles of an innovative educational environment. To bring our values to life, VCSC will lead with these strategies:

- Develop programs that teach effective and socially responsible interactions within AI-enhanced digital environments. Equip personnel with the skills to uphold the integrity and security of our community's digital spaces.
- Provide comprehensive support programs for all staff, focusing on how AI can enhance our district's mission to support our graduate profile. Encourage familiarity and comfort with AI tools, ensuring educators can confidently use AI where it adds value.
- Develop a clear evaluation process for AI-enabled programs to ensure they comply with legal obligations and protect the security, privacy, and mental well-being of students and staff before approving them for use.

Conclusion

AI represents both an opportunity and a responsibility for the VCSC. Guided by Board Policy, the district strategic plan and school improvement process, and Indiana Department of Education, VCSC will integrate AI in ways that enhance teaching, empower educators, and support learners.

This position statement is informed by Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidance from the Indiana Department of Education, Digital Learning and Professional Development Office (2025). Portions of this document were drafted with assistance from ChatGPT, an AI language model by OpenAI. All content was reviewed and modified by district personnel.

Resources

IDOE AI Guidance Document: AI Guidance Document Updated.pdf