



Tool to Help Teachers Evaluate Tools with Generative AI

Introduction

The use of generative AI tools in the classroom has the potential to enhance learning, streamline instruction, and encourage creativity. However, it is essential to thoroughly evaluate these tools to ensure they align with educational goals, adhere to privacy regulations, and are suitable for students. This tool provides teachers with a structured evaluation process to assess generative AI technologies effectively.

Evaluation Criteria

Teachers can use the following criteria to evaluate the suitability of generative AI tools for classroom use. Each criterion should be carefully considered, and the responses can be used to determine whether the tool meets the school's standards for educational and ethical use.

1. Educational Value

- **Alignment with Learning Objectives:** Does the tool support the curriculum and align with your specific learning objectives?
- **Engagement Potential:** Does the AI tool have the ability to engage students and enhance their learning experience?
- **Differentiated Instruction:** Can the tool provide support for differentiated instruction, accommodating different student learning styles and needs?
- **Skill Development:** Does the tool foster critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills in students?
- **Alignment with State Standards:** Does the tool align with Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) to ensure relevance for NPS and compliance with state educational requirements?

2. Ease of Use

- **User-Friendliness:** Is the tool easy for both teachers and students to use? Does it require extensive training to get started?
- **Accessibility:** Is the tool accessible to all students, including those with disabilities? Does it comply with accessibility standards such as WCAG?
- **Integration with Existing Systems:** Can the tool integrate with existing school technology, such as LMS platforms or communication tools?
- **Technical Requirements:** Are the hardware and software requirements feasible for the classroom environment?

- **Suitability for Grade Levels:** Is the tool appropriate for the specific age group or grade levels of your students?

3. Privacy and Security

- **Data Privacy Compliance:** Does the tool comply with data privacy regulations, such as FERPA, COPPA, and GDPR, to protect student data?
- **Data Sharing and Storage:** What kind of data does the tool collect, and how is it stored and shared? Are student data anonymized?
- **Parental Consent:** Is there a requirement for obtaining explicit parental consent before using the tool with students?
- **Data Breach Policy:** Does the tool provider have a clear policy and response plan for data breaches?
- **Data Ownership:** Who owns the content generated by the tool? Is it the school, students, or the vendor?

4. Bias and Ethical Considerations

- **Bias Detection:** Are there safeguards in place to detect and mitigate bias within the AI's output? Does the tool provide transparency about its data sources?
- **Ethical Use:** Does the tool promote ethical use, avoiding harmful content, misinformation, or plagiarism?
- **User Control:** Can teachers control or guide the outputs generated by the AI to ensure they are appropriate and aligned with educational goals?
- **Accountability:** Is there a clear accountability mechanism in place if the tool generates inappropriate or biased content?
- **Student Safety and Well-Being:** Does the tool have safeguards to protect student mental health and well-being, ensuring the content is positive and supportive?

5. Cost and Licensing

- **Cost:** What are the costs associated with using the tool? Is it a one-time purchase, subscription-based, or does it include additional in-app purchases?
- **Licensing Requirements:** Does the tool have specific licensing requirements? Are there discounts or free versions available for educational institutions?
- **Sustainability:** Is the tool financially sustainable for long-term use in the classroom?
- **Hidden Costs:** Are there any hidden costs, such as additional fees for technical support or feature upgrades?
- **Scalability for District-Wide Use:** Can the tool be scaled for use across multiple classrooms or schools without compromising performance or increasing costs excessively?

6. Support and Training

- **Technical Support:** Does the tool offer adequate technical support, such as online help, tutorials, or a helpdesk?

- **Training Opportunities:** Are there training resources available for teachers to learn how to use the tool effectively?
- **Community and Peer Support:** Is there an active community of educators who use the tool and can offer support or share best practices?
- **Ongoing Professional Development:** Are there opportunities for ongoing professional development to keep teachers updated on the tool's features and best practices?
- **Customizability for Teachers:** Can teachers customize the tool's features or outputs to fit the specific needs of their classrooms?

7. Offline Capabilities

- **Offline Accessibility:** Does the tool offer offline capabilities, allowing students without consistent internet access to still benefit from its features?

8. Student Agency and Feedback

- **Student Involvement:** Does the tool allow students to provide feedback about its usage and effectiveness, empowering them to have a voice in the technology used in their learning environment?

Evaluation Rubric

Below is a sample rubric that teachers can use to score generative AI tools on a scale of 1-5 for each criterion (1 = Poor, 5 = Excellent). This rubric will help in comparing multiple tools and determining which ones best meet the needs of the classroom.

Criterion	Score (1-5)	Comments
Alignment with Learning Objectives		
Engagement Potential		
Differentiated Instruction		
Skill Development		
Alignment with State Standards		
User-Friendliness		
Accessibility		
Integration with Existing Systems		
Technical Requirements		
Suitability for Grade Levels		
Data Privacy Compliance		
Data Sharing and Storage		

Parental Consent		
Data Breach Policy		
Data Ownership		
Bias Detection		
Ethical Use		
User Control		
Accountability		
Student Safety and Well-Being		
Cost		
Licensing Requirements		
Sustainability		
Hidden Costs		
Scalability for District-Wide Use		
Technical Support		
Training Opportunities		
Community and Peer Support		
Ongoing Professional Development		
Customizability for Teachers		
Offline Accessibility		
Student Involvement		

Final Decision

After completing the rubric, teachers should consider the overall scores and comments to decide whether the generative AI tool is appropriate for use in their classroom. If any significant concerns are identified, these should be addressed before implementing the tool.

Legal and Administrative Review

- **Consult with Legal and IT Departments:** Before implementing any generative AI tool, consult with the Legal and IT Departments to ensure compliance with district policies, data protection, and technical standards.
- **Parental Communication:** Ensure parents are informed about the use of generative AI tools, including their benefits, risks, and data privacy considerations.

- **Vendor Accountability:** Review the terms of use and vendor accountability clauses to ensure that the vendor is responsible for addressing any ethical or privacy issues that arise.

Conclusion

This evaluation tool aims to provide teachers with a structured approach to assess generative AI tools, ensuring they meet educational needs, comply with legal standards, and align with ethical considerations. By carefully evaluating these tools, teachers can make informed decisions that benefit student learning and promote a safe and productive classroom environment.

Recommendations for Next Steps

- **Pilot Testing:** Consider conducting a pilot test of the generative AI tool in a controlled classroom environment to gather feedback and identify any issues before full implementation.
- **Regular Re-Evaluation:** Schedule regular re-evaluations of generative AI tools to ensure they continue to meet the evolving needs of students and teachers, as well as comply with updated regulations and best practices.