

El Segundo Unified School District

A Districtwide Strategy for Responsible, Human-Centered AI in Education

El Segundo Unified School District (ESUSD) has implemented a comprehensive, purpose-driven approach to artificial intelligence that prioritizes student learning, educator capacity, ethical use, and long-term sustainability. Rather than treating AI as a standalone technology initiative, the district has embedded AI literacy and responsible use into instruction, policy, professional learning, and community engagement.

Purpose Before Tools

ESUSD began by clearly defining *why* AI belongs in schools. All AI efforts are anchored to the district's Graduate Profile, ensuring that AI supports the development of critical and creative thinkers, effective communicators, responsible individuals, and ethical global citizens. AI is positioned as a thinking partner and productivity support, not a replacement for human judgment, relationships, or creativity.

Governance and Policy Alignment

The district established Board-approved AI policy alongside flexible Administrative Regulations. This structure codifies core principles such as privacy, transparency, academic integrity, and student safety while allowing guidance to evolve as technologies change. The governance model supports responsible experimentation within clear, shared expectations.

Building Adult Capacity First

Recognizing that sustainable implementation begins with educators, ESUSD prioritized professional learning before expanding student use. Teachers have access to vetted AI tools and receive ongoing, job-embedded support focused on lesson design, feedback, differentiation, and communication. Coaching is non-judgmental and opt-in, fostering trust and authentic adoption while reducing workload rather than adding to it.

A Developmental TK–12 Learning Progression

AI instruction is developmentally appropriate and intentionally sequenced. Younger students build awareness and curiosity, upper elementary students learn guided and ethical use, middle school students focus on evaluation and responsibility, and high school students

apply AI in advanced, real-world, and career-connected contexts. This progression ensures understanding grows alongside responsibility.

Reframing Academic Integrity

ESUSD updated its approach to academic honesty to reflect modern learning realities. Instead of relying solely on prohibition, the district emphasizes transparency, attribution, and clear expectations for human contribution. Students learn when AI use supports learning and when it undermines it, shifting the focus from enforcement to ethical reasoning and skill development.

Student Leadership and Voice

Students play an active role through AI clubs, student-led conferences, and interdisciplinary projects. By elevating student voice, the district reinforces agency, relevance, and responsible innovation.

Family and Community Engagement

AI literacy extends beyond classrooms through parent workshops, community committees, and clear communication. Transparency around how and why AI is used has built confidence and alignment among families and stakeholders.

Continuous Reflection

ESUSD treats AI as an ongoing learning journey. Regular feedback, iteration, and alignment with broader district goals ensure AI remains a tool in service of learning.

ESUSD's AI Integration Strategy

