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# Orange County Schools: Leading Responsibly in the Age of AI

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A Strategic Plan for Sustainable and Ethical AI Integration



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# AI Usage Disclosure

## Transparent Use of AI

*This presentation was developed in alignment with Orange County Schools' AI Usage Guidelines and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's recommendations for responsible and ethical use of generative AI in public education.*

*AI tools, including ChatGPT and Canva, were utilized to support content refinement and visual design – without including any personally identifiable information (PII) or confidential student or staff data.*



# Strategic Plan 2021-26 Priorities

**EQUITY**

**PRIORITY 1: Teaching Tomorrow's Leaders**

**PRIORITY 2: Excellence and Efficiency**

**PRIORITY 3: Exemplary Staff**

**PRIORITY 4: Empowering Culture**



# Understanding Artificial Intelligence

## Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Machines performing tasks that typically require human-like reasoning (e.g., pattern-recognition, prediction, decision-making).\*

— Adapted from Britannica Education, 2025

## Generative AI (GenAI):

A subset of AI that creates new content—text, images, code, video—by learning the patterns in large data sets.

— Adapted from MIT News, 2023 & Wikipedia, 2024

## Why GenAI for Schools?

- Converts students from **consumers** of content into **creators** of content
- Supports **creativity, iteration, revision, adaptability**. [World Economic Forum+1](#)
- many students are already using GenAI tools; school integration brings **guidance and pedagogical structure**. [College of Education+1](#)
- Enables teachers to move beyond routine tasks toward **personalized, high-impact instruction** and **human-centered engagement**. [College of Education](#)

# The Rapid Acceleration of Artificial Intelligence

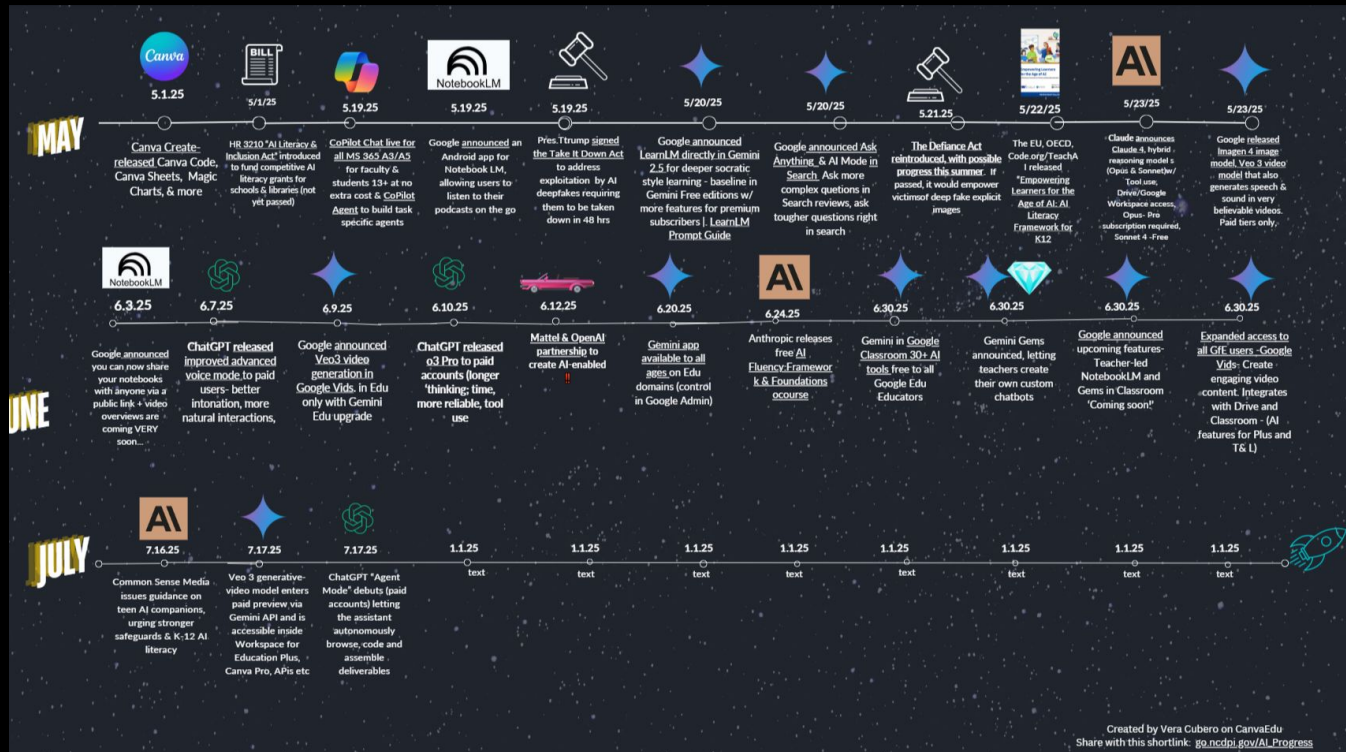
## A Partial Timeline of AI Advancements since November 2022!



Graphic credit: Vera Cubero  
Source: [https://go.ncdi.gov/AI\\_Progress](https://go.ncdi.gov/AI_Progress)

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# Why AI Integration Is Essential to Student Readiness

## The World Has Already Changed

“**86% of students** say they already use AI in their studies – daily or weekly.”  
– *Digital Education Council, 2024*

## Our Vision Why We Must Act

“Only **18% of K–12 teachers** currently use AI in their teaching; at least 28 states have published AI policy guidance. If we wait, we’ll fall behind.”  
– *RAND Corp., 2023 / ECS, 2025*



## The Opportunity for Education

“AI literacy is now labelled a core competency in education – not just how to use tools, but how to judge, reason, and live with them.”  
– *World Economic Forum, 2025*

## North Carolina Context

“Only about **35%** of NC district leaders report providing students with AI training – a clear readiness gap.”  
– *North Carolina DPI AI Guidelines Taskforce (via Vera Cubero, 2025)*

# AI Is Transforming Teaching and Learning

## Access and Equity

AI expands access and personalized learning – meeting every student where they are and helping close opportunity gaps.

## Teacher Empowerment

AI tools help reduce teacher workload – grading, data management, and planning – so educators can focus on high-impact instruction and meaningful connections with students.

## College, Career, and Life Readiness

AI fluency is now essential for success beyond graduation. AI is preparing students not just to adapt but to lead with creativity, integrity, and confidence.



**SY25-26**  
**Foundation &**  
**Mobilization**



**SY26-27**  
**Integration and**  
**Capacity Building**



**SY27-28**  
**Innovation and**  
**Sustainability**



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## What We've Accomplished

- Updated OCS Policy
- Established a District Steering Committee
- Created Generative-AI Guidelines
- Created AI Usage Guidelines & Grade-level Charts
- Researched AI Tool-vetting Rubrics
- Curated an Initial List of Approved, Secure AI Tools

## Next Steps in Coming Weeks and Months

- Train-the-Trainer Sessions for All Digital Learning Coaches
- AI Literacy Training for All Teachers
- Launch of the First OCS AI Ambassador Program

# SY25-26

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Mobilization**





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