

2025 MISBO Annual Conference

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AI GLOSSARY

Accountability: Ensuring AI is used fairly and safely. Even when tasks are automated or delegated to tools, the responsibility for ethical use, fairness, and student well-being stays with humans.

Adaptive Learning: AI that adjusts lesson content or pace based on a student's performance. For example, math platforms that increase difficulty as students master concepts or reteach for missed questions.

Advanced AI Assistant: AI tools, often wrappers over large models, that use natural language to support teaching and admin tasks. Examples include Perplexity (Research), NotebookLM (Chatting with your files), and Gems (Generating resources).

Agentic AI: AI systems that initiate actions or make decisions independently, such as drafting emails. Most school AI is not truly agentic and requires confirmation before action.

Agentic Workflow (Workflow Agent): Automates tasks across apps or systems. Example: fills out forms, sends emails, and updates records without human input.

AI Agent: A system that takes action to complete tasks. Examples: Custom GPTs for feedback, internal bots to organize school updates.

AI Detectors: Tools that attempt to identify AI-generated content. Often used in plagiarism detection, though the results are unreliable. Teachers should never use them as sole evidence in academic integrity reviews.

AI Governance: School-approved policies for safe, ethical AI use. Policies often cover privacy, fairness, and approved tools.

AI Literacy: Skills and knowledge needed to understand, use, and critique AI tools effectively.

AI Wrappers: User-friendly tools built on existing AI models that enhance usability. Examples: Brisk or FlintK12 provide teacher-specific tools without needing prompt engineering.

Algorithm: A digital set of instructions. AI uses algorithms to recommend lessons or grade quizzes.

Algorithmic Transparency: Understanding how AI made a decision is important for trust and accountability.

Alignment: The extent to which an AI system's behavior matches human goals, values, and educational priorities, ensuring it supports learning and teacher intent.

Approved Tools: AI apps vetted by your school. These meet privacy and safety standards.

Artificial General Intelligence (AGI): A hypothetical future AI stage meaning AI is as capable as humans.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Tech that mimics human thinking to complete tasks.

Augment (AI): When AI enhances or extends human ability (e.g., helping teachers draft feedback faster or visualize data more clearly) without replacing their judgment.

Automation vs. AI: Automation repeats set tasks; AI learns and adjusts (like giving feedback).

Bias (AI): Systematic and unfair discrimination in AI outputs, often stemming from skewed training data or design flaws.

ChatGPT Agent: A custom AI assistant from OpenAI that can respond in specific ways and remember context. Example: a curriculum GPT that helps align lessons to standards.

Data Curation: The process of selecting, organizing, and maintaining high-quality data for AI use. In schools, this can include anonymizing student records or choosing trusted content for AI-powered tutors.

Data Privacy: The right to control student data—what's collected, how it's used, and who sees it.

Dataset: The data used to train an AI model. Quality, diversity, and source of the data affect AI performance.

Deep Learning: A type of AI that finds patterns in big data. It powers speech-to-text and Image tools.

Deepfakes: Fake but realistic AI-generated media. Teachers need to help students spot them.

Disinformation: Intentional falsehoods that can appear in AI outputs.

Emotional Support AI: AI Chat tools that imitate empathy. Note: not a replacement for real support.

Explainability: The ability to clearly describe how and why an AI made a decision. It is crucial for educators when using AI in grading, interventions, or personalized learning.

Feedback Loop: AI tools change over time by learning from user edits or actions. In the classrooms, this occurs when adjustments alter future AI responses.

Generative AI (GenAI): AI that creates new content like text, images, or code. Used for writing prompts, feedback, and visuals.

Hallucination (AI): AI-generated information that sounds plausible but is factually incorrect or fabricated. In education, this can look like a fake citation or a misrepresented historical event. Always double-check.

Human-in-the-Loop (HITL): An AI system where a person reviews, modifies, or approves the AI's output before it's finalized. This is essential for maintaining teacher oversight and instructional quality.

Large Language Model (LLM): An AI trained on huge text data (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini).

Learning Analytics: AI-supported methods to collect, analyze, and report student data to drive informed teaching, tailor interventions, or improve outcomes.

Live Agents: AI agents that perform real-time actions based on changing inputs. Example: an AI that updates a class dashboard based on attendance and behavior data.

Machine Learning (ML): AI that learns from data. Used in software that predicts student needs.

Metaprompting: Writing a prompt that instructs the AI on how to respond to future prompts. Often used to shape tone, behavior, or task structure (e.g., "Act as a debate coach and give feedback in three bullet points.").

Misinformation: Unintentional mistakes that can appear in AI outputs.

Model: A trained AI system that performs a task like grading or summarizing.

Model Training: Teaching an AI model using examples. Better training leads to better outcomes.

Multi-Component Prompt (MCP): A structured prompt that guides the AI through multiple steps. Example: ask three questions, then give a lesson idea, then suggest resources.

Multimodal AI: AI that processes text, images, audio, or video; not just one modality.

Narrow AI: AI designed for one job. Most tools in schools today use this type.

Neural Network: An AI structure that mimics how the brain learns and is the root of Generative AI.

Persona AI: An AI tool with a defined role or tone, such as an "AI PD Coach" that gives feedback and support with a friendly tone.

Prompt: The instruction you give an AI to generate a response. Clear, specific prompts lead to more accurate and useful results.

Prompt Engineering: The skill of writing effective prompts. Useful when asking AI for plans or feedback.

Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG): An AI method that pulls data from external sources before responding. Example: a school-approved GPT that references district policy docs.

Robotic Process Automation (RPA): Tools that handle simple repetitive work, like scheduling or sorting data.

Singularity: A hypothetical future AI stage when AI becomes vastly smarter than humans.

Solution: A full system that solves a bigger problem using AI. Example: a platform that manages grading, feedback, and student progress.

Supplement (AI): When AI provides additional support or resources, such as extra practice problems or study guides, to reinforce human-led instruction.

Superintelligence: A hypothetical future AI stage that exceeds human intelligence in all areas.

Supervised Learning: AI trained using labeled data. Often used for predictive grading or attendance alerts.

Token Limit: A constraint on how much information you can send or receive in a single AI prompt. It impacts prompt length and output size.

Tokens: The text units AI breaks input and output into, often parts of words.

Tool: A single-purpose app. AI tools in education include quiz makers, slide builders, or citation helpers.

Training Computation: The computer power needed to teach or run an AI model.

Transformers: The model structure that powers tools like ChatGPT. Helps AI understand context.

Trustworthy AI: AI systems that are designed to be transparent, fair, safe, and aligned with school values, but still need oversight.

Unsupervised Learning: AI that finds patterns without labeled data, used for trend spotting.



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