

AI, or artificial intelligence, is a hot topic in many areas, including education, right now. For school board members who want to learn more about this quickly developing area, here is some basic information.

## What is AI?

[Wikipedia](#) defines AI as

“the ability of machines to perform tasks that are typically associated with human intelligence, such as learning and problem-solving. AI applications include advanced web search engines (e.g., Google Search), recommendation systems (used by YouTube, Amazon, and Netflix), understanding human speech (such as Siri and Alexa), self-driving cars (e.g., Waymo), generative or creative tools (ChatGPT and AI art), and competing at the highest level in strategic games (such as chess and Go).”

## What is “generative AI?”

“Generative AI refers to deep-learning models that can generate high-quality text, images, and other content based on the data they were trained on. . . Generative AI refers to deep-learning models that can take raw data — say, all of Wikipedia or the collected works of Rembrandt — and “learn” to generate statistically probable outputs when prompted.”

<https://research.ibm.com/blog/what-is-generative-AI>

## How does generative AI work?

Generative AI “allows users to input a variety of prompts to generate new content, such as text, images, videos, sounds, code, 3D designs, and other media. It “learns” and is trained on documents and artifacts that already exist online. The rise of generative AI is largely due to the fact that people can use natural language to prompt AI now, so the use cases for it have multiplied. Across different industries, AI generators are now being used as a companion for writing, research, coding, designing, and more.”

<https://www.coursera.org/articles/what-is-generative-ai>

## Where Can I Learn More?

Any internet search will reveal numerous articles on AI generally and as it is relevant to K-12 education. Here are a few articles that may be of particular interest to people who are looking for an introduction to AI.

[AI in Education](#) (John Bailey, Education Next)

[Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Teaching and Learning: Insights and Recommendations](#)  
(U.S. Department of Education, May 2023)

[The Difference Between Generative AI and Traditional AI: An Easy Explanation for Anyone](#)  
(Bernard Marr, Forbes July 24, 2023)

[How Schools Can Survive \(and Maybe Even Thrive\) With A.I. This Fall](#) (Kevin Roose, The New York Times August 24, 2023)

[It's Not Just About ChatGPT. Other AI Technologies Are Heading to Schools](#) (EdWeek May 9, 2023)

[Measuring Trends in Artificial Intelligence](#), (Stanford University 2023)

[Science & Tech Spotlight: Generative AI](#) (U.S. Government Accountability Office June 13, 2023)

[Should Schools Ban or Integrate Generative AI in the Classroom?](#) (Regina Ta and Darrell M. West, Brookings, August 7, 2023)

[What is Generative AI? Definition, Applications, and Impact](#) (Coursera, August 17, 2023)

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