



Common Sense Media Supports New York Assembly Bill [A6972](#) (Solages) Creating an Artificial Intelligence Working Group within the New York Department of Education

Common Sense Media supports New York Assembly Bill A6972, which establishes an artificial intelligence (AI) working group within the NY Department of Education to develop safe and effective guidance on AI use in schools. We believe A6972 takes an inclusive and expert-informed approach that helps New York students and educators navigate the benefits and challenges of AI in education.

[Common Sense Media](#) is the nation's largest non-profit dedicated to improving the lives of kids and families by providing trustworthy information, education, and the independent voice they need to thrive. Our ratings, research, and resources reach more than 150 million users worldwide and our materials are used by 1.4 million educators every year. In New York, over 58,000 educators have registered to teach Common Sense's [digital citizenship and literacy materials](#) – including AI literacy content – to their students. Common Sense rates and reviews [AI products and tools](#) and conducts original research on AI and young people.

AI Is Already Used in Schools Without Clear Guidance

Young people are already using general AI programs every day. According to Common Sense Media research, [7 in 10 teens report using general AI applications for both personal and educational purposes](#), yet 6 in 10 say that their schools either lack clear policies about AI or are unsure what those policies are. Meanwhile, only 37% of parents whose teens use AI are aware their children are doing so. Most teens already use AI for both personal and educational purposes; however, they are often doing so without clear expectations, safeguards, or support from educators or families.

Students, teachers, and parents generally [view AI as a promising and positive educational tool](#), especially when they've had the opportunity to use it themselves. However, most broadly agree that schools are not doing enough to prepare students for effective and safe AI use, despite its increasing integration into daily life. AI tools are increasingly adopted in schools without consistent implementation standards, transparency for students and families, or consideration of AI harms. Without expert-informed guidance on outstanding questions of appropriate use, data privacy, and academic integrity, schools are left to make decisions that could inadvertently harm or create inconsistencies affecting students, staff, and families. As K-12 schools continue to interact with AI, New York requires a coordinated and multi-stakeholder strategy that helps districts thoughtfully integrate AI.



Common Sense Media Supports New York A6972

Introduced by New York Assemblymember Michaelle Solages, A6972 creates an AI working group within the NY Department of Education to thoughtfully develop guidance and model AI policy for New York K-12 schools, educators, and students. To address the growing influence of AI in education, this bill requires representation from teachers, staff, administrators, academics, industry experts, and students in assessing safe AI use in education and encourages input from relevant stakeholders.

This bill directs the AI working group to be composed of the Commissioner of Education or their appointee, as well as appointees from the Governor, Assembly, and Senate. These individuals must be selected for their expertise in education or AI and reflect diverse scientific perspectives. The working group must assess how schools currently use AI, predict future AI use in education, and identify positive and negative consequences of AI in education. The working group must also give opportunities for stakeholders to provide meaningful feedback before AI is introduced in schools, including hosting at least three public meetings to incorporate stakeholder feedback. A6972 instructs the group to offer legislative and administrative proposals and identify ways the state can support educators in using AI safely and effectively.

A6972 also requires the working group to publish guidance on a wide range of AI education topics, including academic integrity and plagiarism, acceptable and unacceptable uses by students and educators, data privacy and data security, parental and guardian access to student-entered AI data, and safety and privacy software systems in schools. The working group will recommend strategies that ensure AI supports teaching and learning, prevent exacerbating any existing inequalities within the education system, and include professional development opportunities for educators.

Common Sense Media commends Assemblymember Solages and New York for bringing forward this legislation. By encouraging expert insight, transparency, and broader stakeholder engagement within AI use in schools, A6972 offers meaningful instruction to students and educators already interacting with AI in their classrooms.

For more information or to speak with our team, please contact us at ljackson@commonsense.org.