AI Literacy: A Framework to Understand, Evaluate, and Use Emerging Technology

Digital Promise

Digital Promise envisions safe, equitable, and meaningful artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies that improve education by enhancing how we teach and learn. AI literacy has emerged as a skill set for everyone to safely and effectively use these emerging technologies.

AI literacy includes the knowledge and skills that enable people to critically understand, evaluate, and use AI systems and tools to safely and effectively participate in an increasingly digital world.

AI Literacy: A Framework to Understand, Evaluate, and Use Emerging Technology describes a framework to leverage AI systems and tools for powerful learning and strategies for educational leaders to design and implement a clear approach to AI literacy for their specific communities.
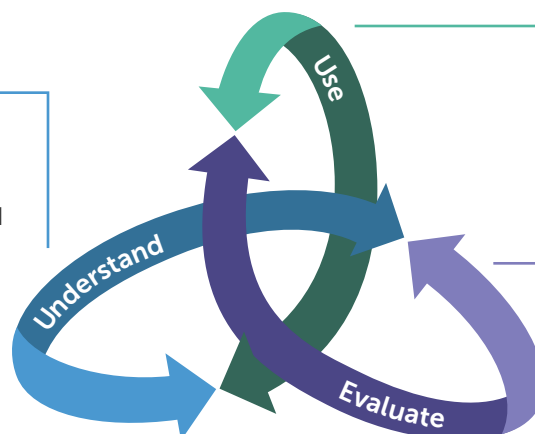
AI Literacy Framework

Digital Promise's AI Literacy Framework emphasizes that understanding and evaluating AI are critical to making informed decisions about if and how to use AI in learning environments, and connects AI literacy skills to initiatives that educators have discussed and implemented together with emerging technologies for decades, such as computational thinking, data literacy, digital citizenship, and media literacy.

Our framework defines three interconnected **Modes of Engagement** to support robust engagement in AI literacy, including:

Understand:
Acquiring basic knowledge of what AI can do and how it works in order to make informed decisions about evaluating and using AI systems and tools.

Use:
Interacting, creating, and problem-solving with AI as a progression of use for distinct contexts and purposes.

Evaluate:
Centering human judgment and justice to critically consider the benefits and/or costs of AI to individuals, society, and the environment.

Digital Promise

Strategies to Promote AI Literacy in PK-12 Education

Public schools have a critical role to integrate AI literacy throughout PK–12 education so that our current and future communities are aware and able to critically evaluate AI systems. We have outlined five strategies to promote AI literacy in PK–12 education, with examples and guidance for implementing each strategy in our paper.

Strategy 1:
Provide Guidance for Adoption and Evaluation

Systems Leaders and Policymakers

Strategy 2:
Integrate AI Literacy Across Grades and Subject-Area Learning

System and School Administrators

Strategy 3:
Facilitate Ongoing, Just-In-Time Professional Learning

Instructional Leaders

Strategy 4:
Design Powerful Learning Experiences

Teachers and Instructional Leaders

Strategy 5:
Promote Awareness and Agency

Leaders, Teachers, Learners, Caregivers, and Community Members

Informed users are essential for the safe and effective use of AI. We call on school leaders and policymakers to champion AI literacy for all learners, educators, and community members. Together, we can ensure the responsible adoption of emerging technologies.

Read the full paper at DigitalPromise.org/AILiteracy

AI Literacy: A Framework to **Understand, Evaluate, and Use** Emerging Technology

Kelly Mills, Pati Ruiz, Keun-woo Lee, Merijke Coenraad, Judi Fusco, Jeremy Roschelle, & Josh Weisgrau

June 2024

DigitalPromise.org | @Digital Promise