

February 4, 2026

Dear Administrators,

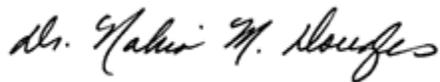
The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been on the rise for the last several years. While the use of AI can be a tool to assist educators and administrators alike, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Special Education Department would like to remind Local Education Agencies (LEAs) of the responsibilities they hold with respect to developing individualized education programs (IEPs) under [34 CFR 300.324](#), [23 IAC 226.220](#), and [23 IAC 226.230](#). LEAs should review and/or revise internal policies and procedures related to AI to prevent violations related to the rights of students with IEPs. Illinois has defined AI as:

Artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs such as predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions that can influence physical or virtual environments. "Artificial intelligence" includes generative artificial intelligence. "Generative artificial intelligence" means an automated computing system that, when prompted with human prompts, descriptions, or queries, can produce outputs that simulate human-produced content, including, but not limited to, the following: (1) textual outputs, such as short answers, essays, poetry, or longer compositions or answers; (2) image outputs, such as fine art, photographs, conceptual art, diagrams, and other images; (3) multimedia outputs, such as audio or video in the form of compositions, songs, or short-form or long-form audio or video; and (4) other content that would be otherwise produced by human means. ([775 ILCS 5/2-101\(M-N\)](#))

To support LEAs, ISBE has compiled some resources below to assist districts with ensuring that if AI is utilized, it is in an appropriate manner.

[Avoiding the Discriminatory Use of Artificial Intelligence](#)
[Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Teaching and Learning, May 2023](#)
[Designing for Education with Artificial Intelligence, July 2024](#)

Sincerely,



Dr. Nakia Douglas
Director, Special Education Department
Illinois State Board of Education