

# Navigating AI in Christian Schools

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## Key Points

- Artificial intelligence (AI) is far from new, but the launch of ChatGPT in November 2022 created widespread awareness of AI's potential for the K–12 education sector.
- The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) conducted a survey of its members in the fall of 2023 to gain insight into ACSI school policies and instruction about AI, how educators are using AI in teaching and learning, and educators' perceptions about the benefits, drawbacks, and future of AI in education.
- The survey found that about one third of Christian school educators—that is, leaders and teachers—reported that their school used AI in teaching and learning (predominantly in high school grades), and that most educators have low levels of familiarity, usage, and confidence when it comes to AI technology.
- At Christian schools that incorporated AI in instruction, the top four uses were 1) automated tasks, such as generating essay prompts or lesson plan ideas, 2) new learning tools, such as AI powered games, 3) adaptive learning, providing students with more or less challenging materials depending on their performance, and 4) individualized learning, in which AI-powered tutoring programs tailor instruction to students' individual needs.
- Overall, a large percentage of surveyed Christian school educators believed that AI could help them save time and effort as well as develop more effective curriculum and lesson plans. However, they are concerned that AI will have a negative impact on students' integrity (cheating), learning (hindering the development of creative and critical thinking skills), safety (potential hacking or monitoring), and faith development.
- Early adopters of AI in Christian schools tended to be located in urban settings and at schools with missional versus covenantal admissions policies (missional schools do not require parents to attend church or sign a statement of faith). School leaders also tended to be more favorable about AI than teachers.
- Christian schools' unique missions—including their theological views and educational philosophies—should inform the question of whether or how to adopt new AI technologies. Collaborative and schoolwide dialogue can be used to explore the opportunities and challenges that AI poses. To this end, this report concludes with some suggested discussion prompts.

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For the full publication, see Swaner, Lynn E., and Rian Djita. "Navigating AI in Christian Schools." Cardus, 2024. <https://www.cardus.ca/research/education/reports/navigating-ai-in-christian-schools/>.