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Prepared by: **Chris Kehoe, Superintendent of Education**  
**Courtney Mellow, Catholic Curriculum Consultant**  
Subject: **AI in Education Implementation Strategy Update**

## **Background**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a new and transformative reality in education, offering innovative tools that have the potential to enhance learning and teaching experiences. By integrating and embracing AI into education, we can streamline administrative tasks, provide personalized learning for students, boost student engagement, and develop future-ready skills. Our approach emphasizes the ethical and effective use of these technologies, supporting both students and educators while fostering a more dynamic and efficient educational environment.

## **Focus Areas for Implementation**

The plan for SCCDSB includes four key areas of emphasis:

- Building teacher capacity to support professional practice
- Building teacher capacity to enhance student learning
- Developing student capacity to support their own learning
- Creating collaborative solutions to uphold academic integrity

### **A. Building Teacher Capacity To Support Professional Practice - Professional Development (PD) Opportunities**

**1. Workshops and Training Sessions:** Workshops and training sessions will be offered to demonstrate how AI can be seamlessly integrated into teaching practices. These sessions will focus on practical applications of AI tools in the classroom, including their use for planning and addressing diverse student needs, while providing hands-on experience for educators.

**2. Online Courses and Webinars:** To ensure accessibility, online courses and webinars will be provided for teachers to attend at their convenience. These resources will cover fundamental AI concepts, including prompting and safety/privacy concerns. Teachers will gain an understanding of AI's limitations, such as biases and hallucinations, and learn how to critically evaluate AI outputs. Detailed explanations of AI training, algorithms, and data processing will empower educators to use AI tools effectively and responsibly in their classrooms.

### 3. Ethical Use of AI

**Ethical Guidelines and Best Practices:** Teachers will learn about the ethical considerations of using AI in education. This includes understanding data privacy, ensuring fairness, and promoting transparency in AI applications.

### 4. Support and Resources

**AI Integration Support:** Ongoing support will be provided to teachers as they integrate AI into their teaching practices. This support will include access to central team leads specializing in AI, as well as resources made available through the staff learning hub and other platforms.

**Feedback and Improvement:** Teachers will have opportunities to provide feedback on the AI tools and training they receive. This feedback will be used to continuously improve our PD offerings and ensure they meet the evolving needs of educators.

**Comprehensive Guidelines:** Teachers will be equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to enhance their instructional and pedagogical approaches through effective AI utilization. Comprehensive guidelines have been developed to support this initiative, enabling educators to confidently and responsibly integrate AI into their teaching practices.

The chart below details the different groups within the system that have received professional development (PD) support to date, along with the specific AI-related PD they have undertaken.

Group	Dates	Action:
Elementary Specialists	November 15th, 2024	Introduction to AI in Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and discuss established guidelines for educators and students regarding the ethical and effective use of AI in the classroom.</li> <li>Present a curated suite of AI tools, highlighting their features and applications.</li> <li>Focus on strategies for integrating AI into teacher planning and supporting student learning through specific tools and their capabilities.</li> </ul>
Secondary Teachers	November 15th, 2024	Introduction to AI in Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and discuss established guidelines for educators and students regarding the ethical and effective use of AI in the classroom.</li> <li>Present a curated suite of AI tools, highlighting their features and applications.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on strategies for integrating AI into teacher planning and supporting student learning through specific tools and their capabilities.</li> </ul>
	2025	<p>Assessment: Process over Product</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce and develop strategies to ensure academic integrity as students demonstrate their learning</li> </ul>
NTIP	November 19th, 2024	<p>Introduction to AI in Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and discuss established guidelines for educators and students regarding the ethical and effective use of AI in the classroom.</li> <li>Present a curated suite of AI tools, highlighting their features and applications.</li> <li>Focus on strategies for integrating AI into teacher planning and supporting student learning through specific tools and their capabilities.</li> </ul>
	December 3rd, 2024	<p>Generative AI Prompting: Specialist teachers will focus on developing a deep understanding of generative AI and its applications in education. They will learn effective prompting techniques to maximize the potential of AI tools for teaching and learning. This includes crafting precise and purposeful prompts to generate high-quality outputs, adapting AI tools to meet diverse student needs, and fostering critical thinking in students when engaging with AI-generated content.</p>
	December 10th, 2024	<p>Generative AI Prompting: Grades 4-8 teachers will focus on developing a deep understanding of generative AI and its applications in education. They will learn effective prompting techniques to maximize the potential of AI tools for teaching and learning. This includes crafting precise and purposeful prompts to generate high-quality outputs, adapting AI tools to meet diverse student needs, and fostering critical thinking in students when engaging with AI-generated content.</p>
	February 13th, 2025	<p>Generative AI Prompting and Images: Secondary teachers will focus on developing a deep understanding of generative AI and its applications in education. They will learn effective prompting techniques to maximize the potential of AI tools for teaching and learning. This includes crafting precise and purposeful prompts to generate high-quality outputs, adapting AI tools to meet diverse student needs, and fostering critical thinking in students when engaging with AI-generated content.</p>



PRTs	November 27th, 2024	<p>Introduction to AI in Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review and discuss established guidelines for educators and students regarding the ethical and effective use of AI in the classroom.</li><li>• Present a curated suite of AI tools, highlighting their features and applications.</li><li>• Focus on strategies for integrating AI into teacher planning and supporting student learning through specific tools and their capabilities.</li></ul>
	February 12th, 2025	<p>Generative AI Prompting: Program Resource Teachers will focus on developing a deep understanding of generative AI and its applications in education. They will learn effective prompting techniques to maximize the potential of AI tools for teaching and learning. This includes crafting precise and purposeful prompts to generate high-quality outputs, adapting AI tools to meet diverse student needs, and fostering critical thinking in students when engaging with AI-generated content.</p>
Administrators	December 5th, 2024	<p>Introduction to AI in Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review and discuss established guidelines for educators and students regarding the ethical and effective use of AI in the classroom.</li><li>• Present a curated suite of AI tools, highlighting their features and applications.</li><li>• Focus on strategies for integrating AI into teacher planning and supporting student learning through specific tools and their capabilities.</li></ul>
	February 4th, 2025	<p>Generative AI Prompting: Administrators will focus on developing a deep understanding of generative AI and its applications in education. They will learn effective prompting techniques to maximize the potential of AI tools for teaching and learning. This includes crafting precise and purposeful prompts to generate high-quality outputs, adapting AI tools to meet diverse student needs, and fostering critical thinking in students when engaging with AI-generated content.</p>
Elementary Staff - All elementary schools	Jan-March AI Tour 2025	<p>The AI Tour will provide comprehensive support to teachers as TELT specialists visit schools, fostering engagement through a variety of professional learning opportunities. Inquiry-based sessions will encourage educators to explore AI's potential in education, while Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) will offer collaborative spaces for teachers to share insights,</p>



		strategies, and best practices. Additionally, Lunch and Learn sessions will provide convenient, focused opportunities for educators to gain practical knowledge and skills in leveraging AI tools to enhance teaching and learning.
ELL/MLL Leads	December 11th, 2024 January 8th, 2025	The TELT will collaborate with ELL/MLL teachers to provide an introduction to AI and demonstrate how it can be effectively leveraged to support multilingual learners. This collaboration will focus on equipping teachers with practical strategies and tools to enhance language development, scaffold learning, and address the unique needs of ELL/MLL students. Educators will explore how AI can facilitate translation, vocabulary building, and content comprehension, empowering them to create more inclusive and supportive learning environments.
Board of Trustees	January 28th, 2025	The presentation will outline the school board's approach to supporting the introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in schools. It will highlight the benefits of AI in education, such as improving teaching and learning with innovative tools and strategies. The plan includes providing training for teachers, incorporating AI lessons into the curriculum, and establishing clear guidelines for responsible AI use. The next steps involve expanding training opportunities, enhancing the integration of AI in classrooms, and offering ongoing support for both teachers and students. This comprehensive approach demonstrates a commitment to using AI effectively to help students succeed in a technology-driven world.
Enrichment Students	March/April, 2025	Introducing the fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence (AI), including how it works and its practical applications. Students will explore the do's and don'ts of AI through the student guidelines, gaining a clear understanding of responsible and ethical use. They will also learn to leverage AI tools to enhance their learning experiences, with an emphasis on engaging deeply in the learning process and discovering innovative ways to demonstrate their understanding in the age of AI.
Central Staff - CEC	2025	Support for central office staff at the school board includes an introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI), providing background on its capabilities and potential applications. Staff will learn how to utilize AI tools to streamline daily workflows, improve efficiency, and enhance productivity. This training will focus on practical applications that align with their roles, empowering staff to integrate AI into their tasks effectively and responsibly.
Central Staff - Teaching	2025	Support for central office teachers includes an introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI), providing a foundational understanding of its capabilities and practical applications in



		education. The training will focus on strategies to support both students and classroom teachers in integrating AI into the learning environment. This includes providing guidance on the ethical use of AI, leveraging AI tools to personalize learning, and fostering critical thinking skills to ensure meaningful and responsible use of these technologies.
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## Building Teacher Capacity to Enhance Student Learning

Recognizing the importance of student AI literacy, efforts are being made to educate students on the responsible and effective use of AI. This initiative is critical for preparing students for a future where AI will significantly impact various aspects of life and work. To achieve these goals, the following strategies are being implemented:

### 1. Integration of AI Concepts into the Curriculum

- Curriculum modules are being developed to introduce AI concepts, applications, and ethical considerations. These will be accessible through the D2L platform, enabling teachers to align AI discussions with curriculum expectations.
- Beginning in September 2025, all students from K–12 will engage in meaningful discussions about AI. During the first month of the school year, teachers will lead five foundational lessons on AI, supplemented with ongoing activities throughout the year.

### 2. Hands-On Learning Opportunities

- Collaborative efforts with teachers will result in projects and activities that allow students to experiment with AI tools in a controlled educational environment. These activities will adhere to age-appropriate guidelines, language, and comprehension levels.

### 3. Revised Guidelines on Ethical AI Use

- Guidelines are being updated to help students understand and practice ethical AI usage. These will emphasize the importance of responsible and fair practices.

### 4. Fostering Critical Thinking

- Students will be guided to critically evaluate AI technologies, exploring both their benefits and limitations, fostering essential analytical skills.

## Developing Student Capacity to Support Their Own Learning

The integration of AI in classrooms offers opportunities to enhance student learning by enabling more personalized, interactive, and effective educational experiences. Key initiatives include:

### 1. Personalized Learning Paths

- AI platforms like Khan Academy and Quizizz adapt lessons to each student's pace and learning style. Teachers can customize accommodations to meet individual student needs, improving concept mastery.

### 2. Interactive Learning Tools

- AI-powered simulations and gamification tools provide students with engaging, hands-on learning experiences in a virtual environment.

### 3. Enhanced Research Capabilities



- Tools such as Notebook LM and Elicit AI help students locate and process relevant information efficiently, enhancing the quality of their research projects and deepening their understanding.
- 4. **Language Learning Support**
  - AI tools like Monica and Magic School assist ELL/MLL students with translation services, scaffolding options, and vocabulary support, helping them build both content knowledge and language proficiency.
- 5. **Critical Thinking Development**
  - Discussions and projects on AI ethics enable students to assess AI technologies critically, fostering a deeper understanding of their implications.

## Creating Collaborative Solutions to Uphold Academic Integrity

As AI reshapes education, it is imperative to develop assessment methods that emphasize human capabilities like critical thinking and evaluative judgment. The strategy includes:

1. **Innovative Assessment Methods**
  - Teachers are being trained to adopt assessment strategies that reflect authentic student learning. These approaches focus on personalized feedback, small-group instruction, and the critical appraisal of AI-generated outputs.
  - Professional development workshops and courses on ethical AI integration and assessment practices are being conducted.
2. **Guidelines and Policies**
  - Guidelines for ethical AI use in assessments are being developed, ensuring that student evaluations remain fair, transparent, and meaningful.

## Next Steps

1. **Professional Development for Teachers**
  - Continue offering workshops and training sessions throughout the 2024–2025 school year.
  - Provide online courses and webinars on AI concepts, ethical considerations, and practical applications.
  - Support teachers with system-wide visits and access to AI leads for guidance.
  - Implement a feedback mechanism to refine professional development initiatives.
2. **Curriculum Integration**
  - Launch AI curriculum modules with five foundational lessons on AI literacy starting in September 2025.
  - Collaborate with teachers to develop hands-on AI activities for students.
  - Revise and implement ethical guidelines for AI use by students.
3. **Enhancing Student Learning**
  - Expand the use of AI-driven platforms for personalized learning.
  - Introduce interactive tools and gamification to enhance engagement.
  - Equip students with AI tools to improve research capabilities.
  - Foster critical thinking through AI-related discussions and projects.
4. **Preserving Academic Integrity**
  - Focus on strategies that authentically measure student learning while maintaining high academic standards.



- Train teachers to implement innovative assessment methods that leverage AI responsibly.

By implementing these measures, a comprehensive and ethical integration of AI into educational practices will be achieved, supporting teachers and students in leveraging AI technologies effectively. This strategy aims to create a dynamic and efficient educational environment that prepares students for a future where AI plays a pivotal role.

## **Recommendations**

**That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *AI in Education Implementation Strategy Update*, for information.**