JLARC
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND REVIEW COMMISSION

Study Resolution

Artificial Intelligence in Virginia's K-12 Public Schools

Authorized by the Commission on November 9, 2026

WHEREAS, artificial intelligence (AI) offers potential benefits for teaching, learning, and school operations, but also presents risks to students, such as exposure of student data and academic dishonesty, and overreliance on AI may limit students' cognitive development and acquisition of critical knowledge and skills; and

WHEREAS, more than half of middle and high school students nationally reported using AI for schoolwork, and more than half of K-12 English language arts, mathematics, and science teachers reported using it for instructional planning or teaching; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, the General Assembly enacted § 22.1-20.2:1, which directs the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to compile information on current uses of AI for student instruction and to issue guidance for the safe, ethical, and equitable use of AI in public schools; and

WHEREAS, VDOE surveyed school divisions in 2026 on their AI use, data privacy and security practices, educator training, and other topics related to the guidance required by § 22.1-20.2:1; and

WHEREAS, JLARC reviewed state government use of AI in 2026 and HJ 32 (2026) directs it to review AI policies at institutions of higher education; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission that staff be directed to review the use, governance, and oversight of AI in Virginia's public elementary and secondary schools. In conducting its review, staff shall: (i) examine how school divisions are using AI, including for instruction, assessments, and school operations; (ii) summarize what is known about how students use AI in elementary, middle, and high schools, including how its use varies based on a student's age and grade level; (iii) evaluate whether VDOE's guidance and school board policies adequately address the risks of AI use, including whether they clearly define responsible use of AI tools by teachers and staff and when students may use AI on assignments and assessments; (iv) assess school division practices and capacity to effectively govern and oversee AI tools and to train teachers and staff in appropriate AI use, as well as ensure students use AI appropriately; and (v) identify how, if at all, the state can better support and oversee AI use in public schools, informed by best practices and other states.

JLARC may make recommendations as necessary and review other issues as warranted.

All agencies of the Commonwealth, including VDOE, the Board of Education, the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, and all public school boards and divisions, shall provide assistance, information, and data to JLARC for this study, upon request. JLARC staff shall have access to all information in the possession of agencies pursuant to § 30-59 and § 30-69 of the Code of Virginia. No provision of the Code of Virginia shall be interpreted as limiting or restricting the access of JLARC staff to information pursuant to its statutory authority.