ThoughtExchange

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

CT Center for School Safety Inaugural AI and School Safety Conference

EXCHANGE 1

What are the biggest challenges, threats and needs you see related to the use of AI?

170	269	2,609	10	HIGH
Participants	Thoughts	Ratings	Ratings Ratio	Alignment

AI SUMMARY Participants expressed significant concerns about data privacy and security, emphasizing the need to protect sensitive information from breaches and misuse. Ethical and responsible use of AI was another major theme, with common ground on worries about cheating, misinformation, and deepfakes. The impact of AI on learning and critical thinking skills was highlighted, with a shared fear that over-reliance on AI could hinder students' development. There was a strong consensus on the need for better understanding and training on AI for both students and staff to ensure effective and safe usage, though differences emerged regarding the extent and specifics of regulations and governance needed around AI usage.

KEY THEMES	SUMMARY	REPRESENTATIVE THOUGHTS
Data Privacy & Security	Concerns about the protection of personal and sensitive information when using AI tools. Participants worry about data breaches, unauthorized access, and the misuse of data.	*"PII and data privacy Since AI models are known to continuously train based on user input, confidential or PII may get submitted, leading to privacy concerns."* *"Data privacy. We should not be inputting sensitive information into systems."*
Misuse & Ethical Concerns	Fears about the misuse of AI, including cheating, spreading misinformation, and ethical implications. Participants emphasize the need for proper guidelines and ethical training.	*"Students using it to cheat on assignments. We want our students to be able to use it as a resource."* *"Using AI for scams, taking advantage of children and vulnerable populations."*
Lack of Understanding & Training	The need for better education and training on AI for both students and staff. Participants highlight the importance of understanding AI's capabilities and limitations.	*"Training students to use AI efficiently."* *"Educating people on safe usage. People need to differentiate between safe and unsafe uses."*
Over-reliance on AI	Concerns about becoming too dependent on AI, which could hinder the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills.	*"Over-reliance AI is a force multiplier, but I can easily envision a future in which decision makers are paralyzed without an AI tool to assist them."* *"Removing the ability to use critical thinking. This is an important skill that should be developed at a young age to help our children prepare for the future."*
Accuracy & Bias	Issues related to the accuracy of AI outputs and the potential for bias in AI models. Participants stress the need for oversight and validation of AI-generated information.	*"Accuracy of output Requires oversight to ensure information isn't missed or improperly handled."* *"Inaccurate information. Reliance on the info."*

Click here for more detailed information about Exchange 1

EXCHANGE 2

What are the greatest opportunities to shape and influence the positive, safe trajectory of AI in positive ways?

122	151	2,359	16	LOW
Participants	Thoughts	Ratings	Ratings Ratio	Alignment

AI SUMMARY Participants highlighted the importance of education, training, and ethical considerations in shaping AI's positive trajectory. There is a consensus on the need for comprehensive learning opportunities and clear policies to guide AI use. Key themes include community collaboration and practical applications of AI. However, concerns about bias, misinformation, and privacy indicate areas needing further investigation.

KEY THEMES	SUMMARY	REPRESENTATIVE THOUGHTS
Education & Training	Emphasizing the importance of educating and training individuals about AI to ensure they understand its capabilities, limitations, and ethical implications.	*"Education Training allows for understanding"* *"Training and learning. You can't help shape and influence without an understanding of what you're using and teaching."* *"Educate on what AI is and isn't This way some of the fears can be mitigated"*
Ethical & Responsible Use	Highlighting the need for ethical guidelines and responsible use of AI to protect privacy and ensure positive outcomes.	*"Making ethical and responsible AI Not to invade people's privacy"* *"Incorporating ethical and educational practices. Gatekeeping never works out for anyone."* *"Ensure AI is used for good"*
Collaboration & Stakeholder Involvement	Encouraging collaboration among various stakeholders, including educators, students, parents, and policymakers, to create a comprehensive approach to AI integration.	*"Community approach Involving one group (parents/students/educators/etc) in isolation won't work. Communities need to learn together."* *"Including all shareholders in the conversation Gaining insight from differing perspectives will open possibilities and ideas not thought of."* *"Collaboration between organizations (schools, colleges, local government, police, tech companies) United we stand"*
Policy Development	Developing clear policies and frameworks to guide the safe and productive integration of AI in educational settings.	*"Creation of policy that gives schools and educators a direction on how to integrate AI into learning in a safe and productive way"* *"Having a policy or framework for it. So everyone is involved."* *"Clear AI Policy Making sure that we are clear and precise around our expectations related to AI policy."*
Ongoing Professional Development	Providing continuous professional development opportunities for educators and staff to keep up with the evolving AI landscape.	*"Professional learning for educators and administration We need to move the education worlds adoption of effective ai practices and policy at a faster pace than adoption of previous technologies"* *"On-going professional learning for All Staff one hour workshops once a year isn't enough to effect real change, good or bad"* *"Training for staff They need to catch up to the students"*

Click here for more detailed information about Exchange 2

EXCHANGE 3

What are your most important takeaways and insights from today's conference? What will you do differently as a result of being here today?

102	108	1,848	17	MEDIUM
Participants	Thoughts	Ratings	Ratings Ratio	Alignment

AI SUMMARY The most important takeaway is the need for comprehensive education and training on AI for all stakeholders, emphasizing responsible and ethical use. Participants generally expressed a positive sentiment towards AI, recognizing its potential benefits while also acknowledging the importance of addressing its risks.

KEY THEMES	SUMMARY	REPRESENTATIVE THOUGHTS
Education & Training	Many participants emphasized the need for ongoing education and training on AI for all stakeholders, including teachers, students, and the community.	*"I need more training in AI. It's here to stay."* *"We need to educate staff as well as students the pros and cons of using AI."* *"Continued learning is paramount to be able to guide conversations appropriately."*
Ethical & Responsible Use	There is a strong focus on the ethical considerations and responsible use of AI, including the importance of transparency, bias reduction, and safeguarding data privacy.	*"AI should be designed with transparency, bias reduction, and ethical considerations in mind."* *"Practice responsible AI practices and work with partners in making communities safer."* *"The need for ethical policies and training on AI."*
Collaboration & Community Involvement	Participants highlighted the importance of collaboration between different stakeholders, including inter-district collaboration and involving the community in AI discussions.	*"We need to collaborate more between districts."* *"Broad stakeholder education and involvement is critical."* *"This needs to be a topic of conversation beyond this room with all major stakeholders."*
Integration into Curriculum	Integrating AI into the K-12 curriculum and digital citizenship education was a key takeaway for many participants.	*"The importance of incorporating AI into a comprehensive K-12 digital citizenship curriculum."* *"I want to find a way to integrate AI Literacy into our curriculum."* *"Find ways to integrate across the breadth of school instruction - not treat AI as its own 'thing'."*
Awareness & Understanding	Raising awareness and understanding of AI's potential benefits and risks among all stakeholders was frequently mentioned.	*"Awareness is a great place to start."* *"Most people are unsure of how to approach AI. It's a lot of unknown and ever-changing."* *"We need to get more comfortable talking about this topic and encouraging responsible usage."*

Click here for more detailed information about Exchange 3