

Mr. Roberto J. Alonso, Board Member

SUBJECT: ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION, & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

The School Board has consistently recognized that in an increasingly Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven world, educating students about Artificial Intelligence is not merely an option, but a necessity. At its regular meeting of March 13, 2024, the School Board approved Item H-3, “Artificial Intelligence,” proffered by Vice Chair Monica Colucci, which directed the Superintendent to, among other things, review School Board policies and procedures related to the use and implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) and, if necessary, initiate rulemaking proceedings to amend existing, applicable policies governing the use of AI. This H-3 item requiring a comprehensive review of existing policies and programs was an important step in recognizing this growing area of technology and ensuring that school personnel and students are informed about the safe, ethical, and responsible use of AI in schools. AI’s pervasive influence spans across all sectors, necessitating a comprehensive understanding of its capabilities and implications for students to navigate this modern landscape effectively.

The future workforce will undoubtedly be impacted by AI, with many jobs requiring direct AI expertise or proficiency in utilizing AI-powered tools. Early exposure to AI concepts and applications equips students with the skills necessary to thrive in this evolving job market. Additionally, studying AI fosters computational thinking, logical reasoning, and problem-solving skills – transferable assets applicable across numerous disciplines. The potential for AI to inspire innovation and fuel creative solutions underscores its value in preparing students for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

However, AI education must also encompass the ethical and responsible use of this technology. Understanding the potential for bias and unfairness in AI systems is crucial to ensure its equitable application. Safeguarding privacy and security in the age of AI-driven data collection and analysis is paramount. Students must be empowered to demand transparency and accountability from AI developers to foster trust and ensure responsible AI deployment. Furthermore, considering the far-reaching social and environmental impacts of AI, it is imperative to guide its development and utilization towards beneficial outcomes for society and the planet.

Even within their current role as students, AI offers transformative potential. AI-powered tools can personalize learning experiences, catering to individual needs and optimizing educational outcomes. Research, data analysis, and creative projects can be enhanced through AI assistance, empowering students to explore complex ideas and generate innovative solutions. Cultivating critical digital literacy skills enables students to evaluate information critically and make informed decisions about technology use in an AI-saturated environment.

The long-term benefits of AI education are undeniable. A solid foundation in AI opens doors to a plethora of career opportunities across diverse sectors. The ability to adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing world where AI will continue to play a central role is invaluable. Ultimately, AI education empowers students to become active participants in shaping the future of technology and its societal impact, fostering informed decision-making and advocacy for responsible AI use. The rapid advancement of AI technologies presents both immense opportunities and potential risks

for our students. AI is already transforming various aspects of our lives; from the way we work to the way we interact with the world around us. It is imperative that our students are prepared to navigate this AI-driven landscape ethically and responsibly.

The Hour of Code is a global event where millions of students engage in one hour of coding, with or without AI and learning how AI works. The Hour of Code is a free introduction to computer science through fun activities and videos for learners of all skill levels. Code.org is an internationally recognized coordinator and curriculum provider for computer science and has hosted Hour of Code annually over the last 12 years. First nationally, and now reaching international scale, The Hour of Code is incorporated in countries accounting for over 45 languages, 100 million students, over 1 billion hours of computer science instruction, and to more than 50 million female students, accounting for 50 percent of students engaging in coding related activities. This year's Creativity with AI Hour of Code will be hosted during the week of December 9-15 and is grounded on the theme of "Creativity with AI." This year's celebration of both coding and AI is supported by over 400 partners, 20,000 educators, and 58,000 volunteers.

Integrating AI education into our curriculum through initiatives like The Hour of Code not only equips students with essential 21st-century skills but also empowers them to become informed and responsible digital citizens. By fostering a deep understanding of AI ethics, we can ensure that our students are prepared to harness the power of AI for good while mitigating its potential negative impacts.

This Board item requests that the Superintendent explore the feasibility of hosting an AI Hour of Code during the week of December 9-15, 2024, to engage all secondary students in at least one hour of exposure on AI and the ethical use of AI. If deemed feasible, student participation should be encouraged through the use of social media, media blasts, posters, flyers, and School Messenger by teachers, principals, and the Superintendent to ensure that 100 percent of students engage, as well as notifying parents in advance of the event. This item also requests that the Superintendent explore the feasibility of providing professional development for teachers on this subject, including informing and illustrating how AI related topics can be incorporated into the existing curriculum.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. ROBERTO J. ALONSO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools to:

1. Explore the feasibility of:
 - a. hosting an AI Hour of Code during the week of December 9-15, 2024, to engage all secondary students in at least one hour of exposure on AI and ethical use of AI;
 - b. partnering with university/college and corporate partners to provide resources and support for this initiative;
 - c. establishing, registering, and hosting an Hour of Code AI event for secondary school students through Code.org.;
 - d. providing professional development for teachers for the AI Hour of Code, including offering professional development opportunities for teachers

to enhance their understanding of AI ethics; and

2. Explore the development of a District AI framework that incorporates the power of generative AI as a tool for educator support, parent communications, and safety.
3. Explore how AI-related topics can be incorporated into the existing curriculum.
 - a. where appropriate and without impacting FLDOE instructional requirements, using reputable sourced or developed curricula for secondary students that covers topics such as:
 - i. The potential benefits and risks of AI
 - ii. Ethical considerations in AI development and use
 - iii. Bias and fairness in AI algorithms
 - iv. Privacy and security concerns related to AI
 - v. The impact of AI on society and the workforce.
4. Report back to the Board on the feasibility of hosting the AI Hour of Code as well as on the professional development initiatives at the November 13, 2024, Academics, Innovation, Evaluation, & Technology Committee meeting.
5. If deemed feasible, provide a presentation on the district wide recap of the AI Hour of Code, additionally provide next steps at the February 5, 2025, Academics, Innovation, Evaluation, & Technology Committee meeting.