

## Student AI Usage Progression by Grade Band

The use of AI is scaffolded across K-12 education, shifting from foundational instruction to fully supervised observation to independent, responsible evaluation. The following table outlines a proposed breakdown of AI use by grade band.

| Grade Band                                                                                          | Focus & Access Level                                  | Recommended Student Use of AI (DOs)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>K - 5</b><br>    | <b>Foundational Instruction:</b><br><br><b>No Use</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Do</b> participate in discussions that focus on how computers follow human instructions and how to recognize patterns (early algorithmic understanding).</li> <li>✓ <b>Do</b> learn about how AI works, its limitations, and inherent bias.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>6 - 8</b><br>  | <b>Guided Use</b>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Do</b> use AI, under teacher supervision, to <b>create practice problems or a study guide</b> for review (Coach function).</li> <li>✓ <b>Do</b> use AI to <b>explore a topic</b> under teacher direction (Assistant function).</li> <li>✓ <b>Do</b> participate in exercises where you ask AI to answer a question or write a passage, and then <b>critique its output</b> for errors or factual inaccuracies.</li> <li>✓ <b>Do</b> use AI for <b>brainstorming</b> ideas or to <b>collect resources</b> for a project, under teacher supervision (Source function).</li> <li>✓ <b>Do</b> use AI, under teacher supervision, to <b>edit writing</b> for grammar and structure, but always retain ownership of the content and ideas (Coach function).</li> <li>✓ <b>Do</b> learn about how AI works, its limitations, inherent bias, and ethical implications of use.</li> </ul> |
| <b>9 - 12</b><br> | <b>Interactive Use</b>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Do</b> use AI as a "<b>thought partner</b>" to help with complex tasks like <b>analyzing data, creating models, or debugging code</b> (Analyst function).</li> <li>✓ <b>Do</b> use AI to <b>format citations and a bibliography</b> (with verification).</li> <li>✓ <b>Do</b> learn about how AI works, its limitations, inherent bias, and ethical implications of use.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |