An AI Bill of Rights for Educators

EngageAI Bill of Rights Task Force

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Authors & Acknowledgements

Contact & Feedback

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References

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Introduction

As the development and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI), including generative AI applications, has been accelerating in recent years, many educators have expressed their desire to implement these tools in support of their students. To support the safe and ethical implementation of these powerful tools in educational settings, we outline a set of six rights for educators ("SAFE-AI"[1]) below. This document was created by a team of researchers and practitioners working to develop guidelines and practices for selecting and using AI in K-12 educational settings ethically, expansively, and equitably. We intend this document to serve as a declaration of educators' rights as they are tasked to teach with and alongside AI in the classroom.

Educators' Rights

In order for educators to effectively teach, protect, and nurture their students, we believe that all educators should have the right to SAFE-AI, including:

1. **Support** for using AI tools, including appropriate infrastructure, hardware, software, policies, and training.

2. **Agency** in pedagogy, specifically the ability to make choices about whether, when, and how to use AI based on learning goals, student populations/learning contexts, and pedagogical judgment.

3. **Fairness** in implementation of AI, including adoption of AI systems to empower educators and the use of AI that has been proven to minimize harmful bias.

4. **Equitable access** to high-quality AI tools for students and educators, minimizing gaps of function and quality between free/ad-supported and costly technology.

5. **Advocacy**, for and by educators, of best practices with AI, including selecting, adopting, or resisting AI tools in learning environments.

6. **Information** about AI, communicated clearly and openly, including details about data privacy, who created the tool and for what purpose, environmental impact, and evidence from research on safety and efficacy of models and their applications in classroom settings.

About "Rights"

Just as the White House's Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights is a starting point rather than an enumeration of legal protections, our Bill of Rights outlines what we think is necessary for educators to perform their jobs. In our document, we appeal to the idea of a "right" as a "justified claim on others" that appeals to

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[1] SAFE-AI is shorthand for the set of rights outlined by the EngageAI Task Force, with each letter representing a right for educators vis-à-vis AI. It does not indicate an affiliation with any other organizations using similar acronyms. Please see our supplementary materials for links to other organizations with additional resources on AI and education.

common standards of practice or morality for "justification" (Velasquez, et al., 2014). Though ideally these map onto legal protections, this is not always the case. Importantly, educational context may play an outsized role in determining what legal recourse educators have in securing their rights.

Balancing Rights and Responsibilities

Rights and responsibilities go hand in hand, and we acknowledge here the importance of balancing the two. In our AI-infused education system, teachers, administrators, students, families, and communities all share the duty to keep students safe, and help them learn and grow. However, these responsibilities are not always spread equally among us. In particular, educators often take primary responsibility for students and their learning. In light of AI, these responsibilities, while the same at their core, take on new meanings. We believe the rights listed above work in tandem with educators' responsibilities. A teacher cannot fulfill their responsibility to ensure equitable learning opportunities if an AI tool in their classroom exhibits racial or gender bias, so they need to be able to access reliable, clear information about the AI tool and also have a way to resist its use should it be unsafe for students. This example also highlights the possible tensions between the push to provide students with access to AI for their learning and preparation for life outside of and after school and the responsibility educators have to keep them safe from algorithmic harms.

Further Resources & References

This document is intended to be a launching point for establishing safe, equitable, and expansive educational practices with AI. It outlines critical, but not necessarily comprehensive, conditions for achieving this goal. In this section, we point you to a list of further resources and supplementary materials that may help make progress in securing these rights in your own educational settings.

Furthermore, we have consulted many other ethics frameworks during the development of this document, and are indebted to others who have offered guidance for developing AI rights. In particular, we drew inspiration from both the White House (2022) *Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights* and Conrad's (2023) *Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights for Education* in the creation of this set of rights.