Artificial Intelligence in Special Education

What is artificial intelligence?

Artificial intelligence, or AI, is a broad field of technology focused on creating computer systems that mimic the way people learn, reason, and make decisions. It is a data-driven tool that can help perform tasks more efficiently by recognizing patterns, analyzing complex information, and adjusting its actions based on what it receives from human input over time.

Benefits of AI

AI offers many benefits for special education. Educators can use it as a tool to personalize instruction, tailoring lessons to each student's pace and learning style. Families may utilize AI to enhance learning at home, reinforcing skills in communication, reading, and writing through tools such as text-to-speech, reading assistance, predictive text, and apps that generate spoken or written language. It can also assist in other areas, including organization and executive function through digital planners and reminders, social-emotional learning through virtual social stories and interactive problem-solving scenarios, and subject-specific skills through adaptive or interactive math, science, or language programs. Additionally, AI has the ability to track progress, identify patterns, and suggest strategies to address challenges, giving teachers, related service providers, and families more insight to guide individualized instruction and support.

Limitations of AI

While AI is a powerful tool, it has important limitations. It cannot understand human emotions, social nuance, or context, and it cannot think creatively or generate original ideas on its own. As it relates to special education, AI does not comprehend or fully encompass the regulatory requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or N.J.A.C. 6A:14. Additionally, information produced by generative AI platforms such as ChatGPT or Google Gemini may appear reliable—especially when code citations or case law are provided—but these references often contain errors or may be entirely inaccurate. Ultimately, AI does not have the ability to grasp the law, its intent, or how to apply it in specific situations.

Questions about Special Education

If you have questions about special education law, rights, or services, contact the Office of Special Education (OSE). The staff from OSE provide information and support to parents, students, and educators to help them understand state and federal laws and access the services they need.

Contact Information
Phone: 609-376-9060
Email: OSEinfo@doe.nj.gov