Challenges, opportunities, and questions for schools in the AI era

Challenges

- Schools have to prepare students for a future that is increasingly uncertain. It is not yet clear how AI will impact job markets, political discourse, or our social fabric.

- Responding to AI requires schools to adopt authentic assessment practices, emphasizing process over product. For some teachers, this transition away from traditional assessment may feel burdensome or unfamiliar.

- Ensuring all students have equal access to AI resources and education is crucial to avoid exacerbating educational inequalities.

- Unless the LLM has been fine tuned for classroom use, the number of hallucinations may be too problematic.

- LLMs are trained on large datasets which can include historical and societal biases, as well as selection biases, where the data chosen may not fully represent all cultures or viewpoints equally.

Opportunities

- More efficient student ideation, planning, and data analysis, freeing up time for collaboration and higher order tasks.

- Easier alignment across levels in the form of AI trained on school or state specific rubrics and standards.

- Automation of repetitive, labor intensive administrative tasks like scheduling, data analysis, and customer support.

- Reenergized conversations about the meaning of learning, ethics, and community.

- Personalized tutoring, interactive learning environments, and virtual laboratories

Questions

- If we're going to start experimenting with AI, what are some simple activities we should start with?

- If we teach students younger than 13, how should we talk to them about AI?

- Can AI give formative feedback to students?

- What is my ethical obligation to inform students or parents that something was AI generated?

- Is AI going to change how we think about academic integrity?

- What are the skills we need to teach more of to adequately prepare students for the future?

- Should we be encouraging students to use AI as they draft written work? How should they document that process?