

AI on K-12 Chromebooks: A Parent Guide

Known Dangers

What every parent should know about Gemini on school computers

What is Gemini?

Gemini is Google's generative AI system. It is a chatbot that can generate text, images, and other content with the click of a button. Because it responds to student queries in a confident, human-like way, children may mistakenly assume that Gemini is trustworthy and safe. In fact, Gemini routinely produces responses that are misleading, false, and even dangerous.

How students may encounter it

Gemini is accessible throughout student Chromebooks. In addition to being available through a standalone app, Gemini is also available through the Gemini website, the Chrome browser, Google Search results, webpages, and dedicated keys on newer devices. School administrators' ability to control this access varies, and families have no control over whether their children use Gemini. Certain Gemini features, including those widely available through Google's web browsers and search, cannot be disabled.

Why parents should be concerned

- **False or misleading information:** Gemini can produce erroneous and even harmful information on any subject, including news, health, and schoolwork.
- **Harms to learning and cognition:** Routine reliance on Gemini may diminish your child's ability to learn, write, think critically and creatively, and solve problems.
- **Social and emotional harm:** Gemini is designed to keep users chatting, so it persuasively mimics human tone and emotion, validates user thoughts (even dangerous ones), and never takes breaks, leading children to become overly attached or substitute it for healthy human relationships.

- **Unsafe content or guidance:** Gemini may produce age-inappropriate content, harmful advice, harassment, discriminatory content, or instructions for evading family and school safeguards.
- **Limited safeguards:** AI conversations are designed to continue without natural stopping cues, terminating or redirecting problematic prompts, or effective crisis escalation.

Talk with your child

- Keep the tone calm and curious, not accusatory.
- Explain that AI predicts plausible answers; it does not think, care, or reliably know what is true.
- Show your child where AI appears on their device and how to recognize AI-generated responses.
- Set a simple rule: pause and ask a trusted adult before acting on AI-generated advice
- Invite ongoing questions; ask your child to report any confusing, upsetting, or unsafe interaction.

Ask your school

- Which AI tools can students access, and through which apps, webpages, or device features?
- What can administrators disable or limit—and which features are outside their control?
- How are students taught to verify AI output and protect personal information?
- How is use monitored, documented, and communicated to parents?
- What policies govern consent, opting out, incident reporting, and data retention?

Learn more

[Common Sense Media: Teens, Tweens, and AI](#) | [Research on cognitive offloading](#) · [Stanford: Evidence Base for AI in K-12](#)
[Google Gemini policy guidelines](#) | [Google Pushed AI Into Schools](#) | [KORA Benchmarks](#)