



MEMO

Date: September 1, 2026
To: Board of Education
From: Janice Pavelonis, Superintendent
RE: Artificial Intelligence

26-27 Overview

In the 26-27 school year, our goal is to deeply review our existing River Forest SD 90 Artificial Intelligence Guidance to ensure we are thoughtfully integrating artificial intelligence into teaching, learning, and operations while maintaining the central role of educators and prioritizing student development grounded in the following:

- Teaching and learning are shaped by human relationships and by the experiences, interests, and assets each child brings into school.
- Schools serve academic, developmental, and civic purposes concurrently.
- Artificial intelligence is a means to inform teaching and learning rather than an end in itself.
- Informed use requires deliberate, context-sensitive, and locally determined purpose and use.

The work will be divided into four phases to be completed by the end of the 26-27 school year or before.

- **Phase 1: Comparative analysis of D90 Guidance and ISBE AI Guidance**
- **Phase 2: Development of protocols, questions, and implementation plan for focus groups**
- **Phase 3: Implementation of Focus Groups**
- **Phase 4: Develop final recommendations for guidance for board adoption**

Phase 1: Comparative analysis of D90 Guidance and ISBE AI Guidance

The D90 Innovation Committee will perform a comparative analysis of the existing [River Forest SD 90 Artificial Intelligence Guidance](#) and the [ISBE Artificial Intelligence Guidance](#) released in June of 2026.

The analysis will focus on the following questions from the [recently released ISBE guidance](#):

1. How can informed use of AI support and enhance teaching and learning?
2. What does “informed use of AI” mean in light of supporting the healthy development of young people as individuals and engaged members of a broader society?
3. How can schools create durable systems supporting informed AI use that foreground the experiences and responsibilities of those who interact with it?
4. How might the experiences of educators, students, parents and caregivers, and other stakeholders inform decisions about the purpose and use of AI?

Phase 2: Development of protocols, questions, and implementation plan for focus groups

The D90 Innovation Committee will create focus group discussion questions based on the results of the comparative analysis, and develop a plan to implement both RMS student and D90 parent focus groups.

Phase 3: Implementation of Focus Groups

The D90 Innovation Committee will host focus group discussions to gather feedback on the overall final River Forest SD 90 AI Guidance.

- Focus Group 1: 5-8 RMS Students
 - RMS Technology Specialist will create a student focus group
- Focus Group 2: D90 Parents
 - Superintendent Pavelonis will create a draft list of parents to serve in focus groups from a diverse range of perspectives based on parents who provided feedback to the recent email to families on technology shifts in the district.

Phase 4: Develop final recommendations for guidance for board adoption

The D90 Innovation Committee will coalesce all recommendations into a final guidance document to present to the Board of Education for adoption.

Historical Summary of Artificial Intelligence Efforts in D90

- 2024-2025:
 - Professional Learning for all RMS teachers with Meghan Hargrave
 - Conference attendance for librarians, tech specialists, instructional specialists, and interested staff
 - Professional learning for Innovation committee led internally
- 2025-2026:
 - Digital Civics Curriculum Started
 - Innovation committee focused session with Meghan Hargrave
 - Innovation committee attended IdeaCon in February 2026
 - Innovation committee drafted AI Guidance Document
 - Meghan Hargrave reviewed and provided feedback to the committee
 - Kevin Martin attended professional learning sessions on the development of AI guidance with New Trier School District in partnership with Apple.

- D90 Staff attended professional development sessions in February 2026 including: Teacher use for AI, AI use with students (sessions on Canva, Gemini, Notebook LM, Magic School), AI for accessibility