

Key socio-emotional skills gained at school:

- ⚡ **Social awareness**
- ⚡ **Responsibility and accountability**
- ⚡ **Self-confidence and self-efficacy**
- ⚡ **Communication and collaboration**
- ⚡ **Self-regulation**

Each of these skills represents a competency associated with key life outcomes, including educational success, as well as health and well-being. Research suggests that higher levels of socio-emotional skills are linked to greater academic achievement and engagement in healthier behaviors.*

Some ways that GenAI is being used at schools:

- ⚡ **Provide personalized learning**
AI may be used as a tool to offer tailored, on-demand support for students with different needs, to provide more support for teachers, and to address equity gaps.
- ⚡ **Support teachers**
Teachers are reporting that using AI to assist with lesson planning, grading, and feedback allows for more time with students.
- ⚡ **Encourage student engagement**
As a pedagogical tool, AI offers opportunities to make learning more interactive and engaging for students, including those who may have faced challenges with traditional participation models.

Can GenAI support the growth of social and emotional skills?

Social and emotional skills are essential for developing well-rounded, successful students, and schools provide a robust backdrop cultivating these skills. The advent of GenAI is posited to boost social-emotional learning. However, some research suggests that AI tools may also hinder positive socio-emotional development.

Scan the QR code for more information



Ways that AI may support socio-emotional skills:

- ⚡ **Increase participation and inclusion**
AI may create engagement opportunities for different learning styles, including assistance for neurodivergences and learning disabilities. Students can improve their sense of competence and belonging.
- ⚡ **Practice communication and collaboration**
AI can facilitate peer engagement by providing low-stakes, judgement-free practice opportunities. These can translate to real life interactions once confidence, self-trust, and assurance develop.
- ⚡ **Encourage self-awareness and regulation**
AI can provide immediate, tailored support for challenges, and reinforce learned skills. It can help with the recognition and articulation of emotions to better shape participation and social connections.
- ⚡ **Develop critical thinking**
Students can interact with AI-generated simulations of different scenarios to learn to manage reactionary responses and analyze information. This reinforces social awareness (e.g. empathy), as well as problem solving skills, responsibility, and accountability.

Ways that AI may threaten socio-emotional skills:

- ⚡ **Promote overreliance**
Outsourcing communication and collaboration may lead to dependence on AI. This cognitive offloading impacts readiness skills, including persistence, critical thinking, and patience. It also promotes dependence on external input, reducing self-trust and confidence.
- ⚡ **Threatens epistemic authority**
With on-demand access to AI, students can start to question teachers as a source of knowledge and authority. This also promotes instant gratification, and the loss of competencies like reasoning and curiosity.
- ⚡ **Social Isolation**
Increased usage of AI reduces motivation to engage in nuanced human relationships. This may exacerbate existing hurdles, including lack of confidence and anxiety, distrust, perceived inauthenticity, and lack of belonging.
- ⚡ **Equity Concerns**
AI tools are not equally accessible or beneficial to all students due to differences in literacy, access, or external supports. The tools may lead to reinforcement of exclusions and biases, leading to adverse impacts on socio-emotional development of students.

* From the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) report on "Social and Emotional Skills" (2024), and their working paper on "Social and emotional skills" (2023).