May 10, 2023

To: Interested Parties
Fr: Impact Research, on behalf of Common Sense Media
Re: Parents and students are optimistic about AI, but parents have a lot to learn to catch up to their kids – and want rules and ratings to help them.

Common Sense Media commissioned Impact Research to conduct a survey of parents of K–12 students and of students age 12–18. The results show that when it comes to AI programs, parents have a lot to learn to catch up with their kids. Both parents and students see generative AI programs like ChatGPT as valuable educational tools, but they also have serious concerns. Parents and students have a strong desire for schools to put rules in place for AI, as well as for a rating system that can help parents navigate the new world of AI.

These findings also show that students are using AI programs without parents' or teachers' knowledge, and that parents are concerned about their children becoming too dependent on programs like ChatGPT, in addition to the impact these programs could have on cheating.

Key Findings

> **1. Parents have a lot to learn about AI to catch up to their kids.**
> From usage to knowledge of ChatGPT, parents lag behind where students age 12–18 already are.
> - Only 30% of parents say they have used ChatGPT compared to a majority (58%) of students age 12–18.
> - Only 30% of parents have heard *a lot* about ChatGPT, compared to a majority (54%) of students age 12–18.
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> **2. Kids are using AI without their parents' or teachers' knowledge.** While 50% of students age 12–18 say they have used ChatGPT for school, only 26% of parents of kids in that age range report knowing that their child has used it for school. Additionally, 38% of students say they have used ChatGPT for a school assignment without their teacher's permission, while 56% say they have a friend or classmate who has done so. There is a big gender gap here, with boys more than twice as likely to report using ChatGPT without a teacher's permission (48%) than girls (24%).

3. While they are still assessing the new programs, both parents and students believe that AI tools like ChatGPT will help kids learn. Over two-thirds of parents (68%) and 85% of students believe that AI programs will have a positive impact on education. There is also broad agreement among both parents (68%) and students (84%) that investing in AI-powered tools is important for improving our education system.

While a majority of students believe that ChatGPT will have a *very* positive impact on their learning (53%), parents are a bit more measured, with just 31% saying it will have a *very* positive impact. This suggests that many parents are still assessing the technology before coming to a firm conclusion.

ChatGPT is especially popular among those who have used it, with 87% of parent users and 100% of student users rating the program favorably.

4. Students who use ChatGPT for school are already three times more likely to use it than search engines like Google. A majority of students who have used ChatGPT for school now say they are more likely to use it for school than search engines like Google (53%). In comparison, just 18% of these students say they use search engines like Google more than ChatGPT.

5. While they are optimistic about AI, both parents and students also have significant concerns, especially about kids becoming too dependent on it. More than four out of five parents (82%) and students (84%) agree that ChatGPT "has the potential to both greatly benefit the world or cause great harm." In addition, strong majorities of both parents and students express significant concerns about kids becoming too dependent on it for school (66% major concern), kids using it to cheat (60%), and it generating inappropriate content (60%).

In open-ended responses about their biggest concern with ChatGPT, parents were nearly twice as likely to express a concern related to kids becoming too reliant on the program as they were to raise a concern about cheating (their second biggest concern).

6. Both parents and students want schools to put rules in place for AI soon. Just 26% of parents think their child's school has rules in place for how ChatGPT can be used by students, and both parents and students want to see rules enacted. Majorities of parents (61%) and students (51%) think schools should *limit* the use of AI programs like ChatGPT until rules and safeguards can be put into place. They are also overwhelmingly supportive of a number of potential measures that schools could adopt regarding the use of AI and ChatGPT, such as:

- *Schools putting rules in place for ChatGPT before it is allowed to be used for school assignments* (89% of parents support, 85% of students)

- *Schools not allowing ChatGPT to be used during tests* (78% of parents support, 72% of students)

- *Schools setting an age limit on the use of ChatGPT* (77% of parents support, 75% of students)

7. There is a strong desire among parents for a rating system that will help them evaluate the quality of AI programs like ChatGPT. Over three-quarters of parents say they are interested in AI-powered education tools that help their children learn (77%) but only 40% say they know of a reliable source of information that they can use to learn about AI and kids. As a result, 82% of parents say that they would like to have a rating system to help them evaluate AI programs like ChatGPT.