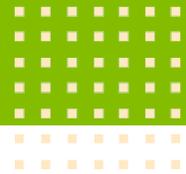




Viewpoints

Pros and Cons of AI In Special Education



AI in special education offers several compelling advantages, notably in the areas of personalization and efficiency. One of the key benefits is the ability to tailor learning experiences to the individual needs of students with disabilities. AI-powered systems can adapt content and pacing in real time, offering personalized instruction that is often difficult to achieve in traditional classroom settings. These technologies can support a range of disabilities, from providing text-to-speech and speech-to-text tools for students with learning challenges to developing custom educational plans for those with autism or ADHD. AI also helps reduce the administrative burden on educators by automating repetitive tasks such as grading or progress tracking, enabling teachers to devote more time to direct interaction with students. Furthermore, AI-driven data analytics can give educators valuable insights into a student's progress, allowing for early identification of learning gaps and more targeted interventions.

However, there are also several concerns and challenges associated with the use of AI in special education. One of the primary drawbacks is the risk of over-reliance on technology, which may inadvertently reduce



human interaction, an essential aspect of building trust and rapport in special education settings. AI tools are not infallible and may not always understand the complex, emotional, and social needs of students with disabilities, which can be difficult for algorithms to replicate. There are also concerns about data privacy and security, as sensitive information regarding students' disabilities and learning progress must be carefully protected. Additionally, the cost of implementing AI-driven tools can be a barrier for many schools, especially those in underfunded districts, potentially creating disparities in access to these innovative resources. As AI continues to develop, it is crucial to balance its benefits with thoughtful considerations around ethical implications and equitable access to ensure that all students, regardless of their backgrounds or needs, can fully benefit from these advancements.

<https://www.edweek.org/technology/ais-potential-in-special-education-a-researchers-view/2024/12>

AI is “going to open a whole new front for education,” he said.

The sentiment is shared by a majority of parents and educators of students with learning disabilities, according to a report from the Special Olympics Global Center for Inclusion in Education. The survey shows that parents and educators believe AI will make learning more accessible, inclusive, and personalized. But they're also concerned about AI's potential to decrease human interaction and leave some schools and students behind.

www.edweek.org/...

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