CARNEGIE LEARNING

The State of AI in Education 2025

Key Findings from a National Survey

A Message from Our CEO

Dear Educators,

As we enter 2025, I continue to be impressed by your dedication to preparing students for a rapidly evolving future. Artificial intelligence continues to transform education, and our students' futures are bright but unpredictable.

For over twenty years, we at Carnegie Learning have applied the latest AI technology to improve student outcomes. A crucial part of that progress is listening to K-12 educators' perspectives. And so, I'm pleased to present our second annual AI in Education report.

Our 2025 national survey of over 650 respondents across 49 states and Puerto Rico reveals both encouraging trends and important challenges. While AI adoption and optimism are growing, concerns about cheating, privacy, and the need for training persist.

Despite these challenges, I'm inspired by the resilience and adaptability of educators. You are the true game-changers in your students' growth, and we're honored to support this vital work.

This report reflects both where we are today and where we're headed with AI. More importantly, it reflects your experiences, insights, and leadership in shaping the future of education. Thank you for all you do.

In partnership,

Barry Malkin
CEO, Carnegie Learning

How did we collect responses?

656 total respondents

49 states + Puerto Rico represented

10-minute survey
(carried out online via computer and mobile)
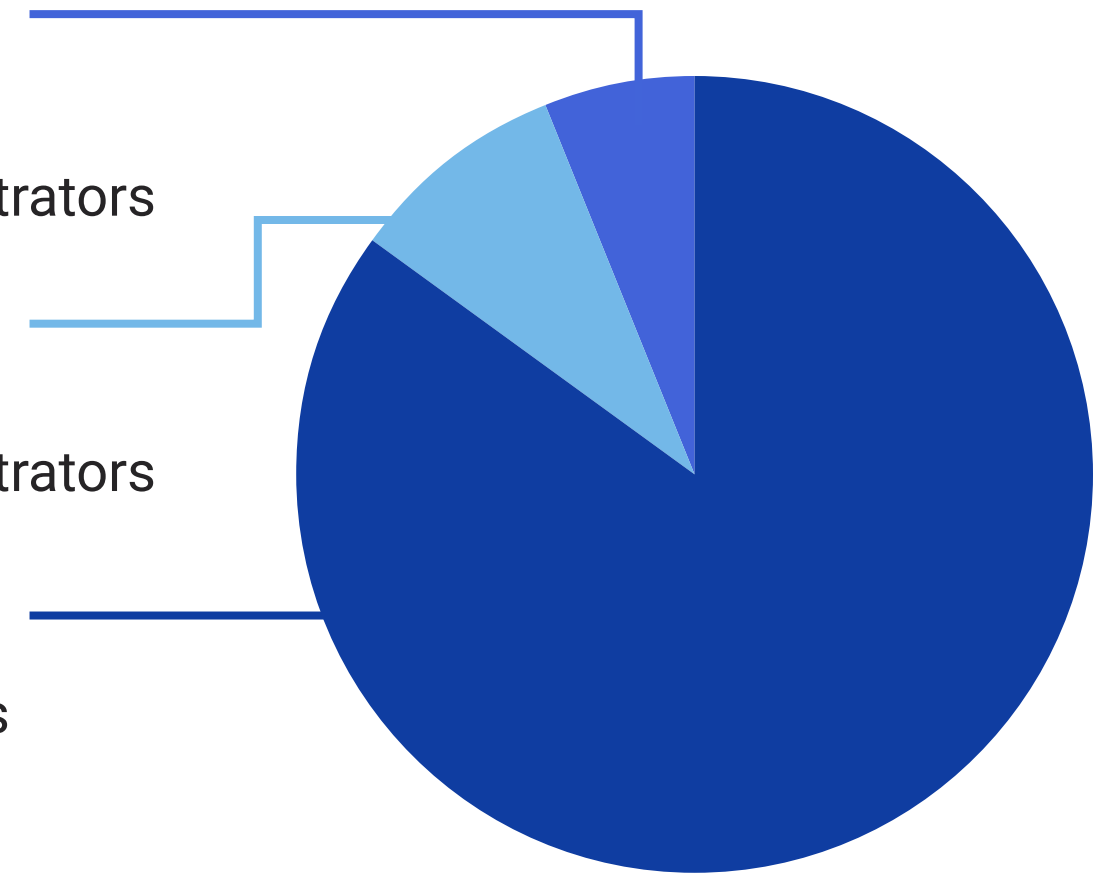
Data was collected
Dec 16, 2024 – Jan 27, 2025

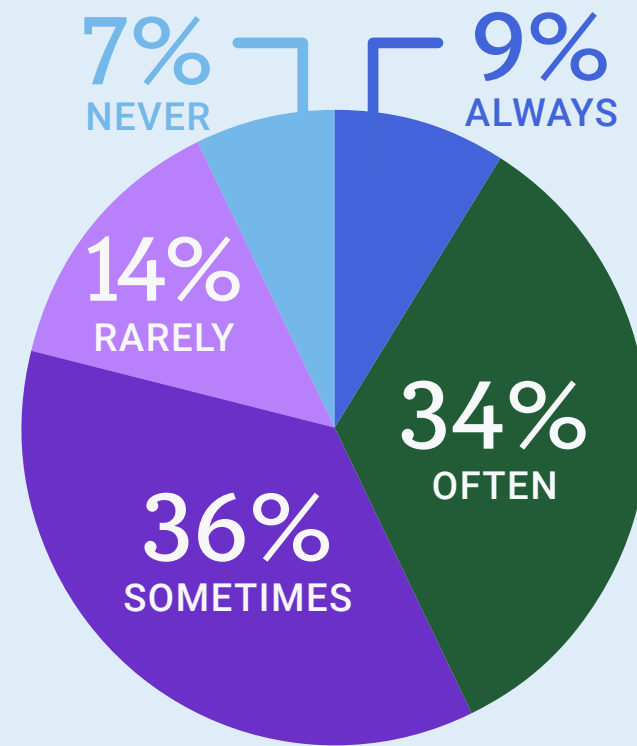**6%** district administrators

9% building administrators

85% teachers

AI power users have doubled

Most educators use AI...

7% **NEVER**

9% **ALWAYS**

14% **RARELY**

34% **OFTEN**

36% **SOMETIMES**

Compared to 2024's numbers at 4% always, 18% often, 34% sometimes, 24% rarely, and 20% never.

Compared to last year, the percentage of educators who use AI "often" and "always" **nearly doubled**, while "rarely" and "never" saw **huge drops**.

... but administrators still use it more than teachers.

58% of administrators use AI often or always.

ALWAYS
- 8%
- 12%

OFTEN
- 32%
- 46%

SOMETIMES
- 38%
- 28%

RARELY
- 15%
- 6%

NEVER
- 6%
- 7%

■ Teachers   ■ Administrators
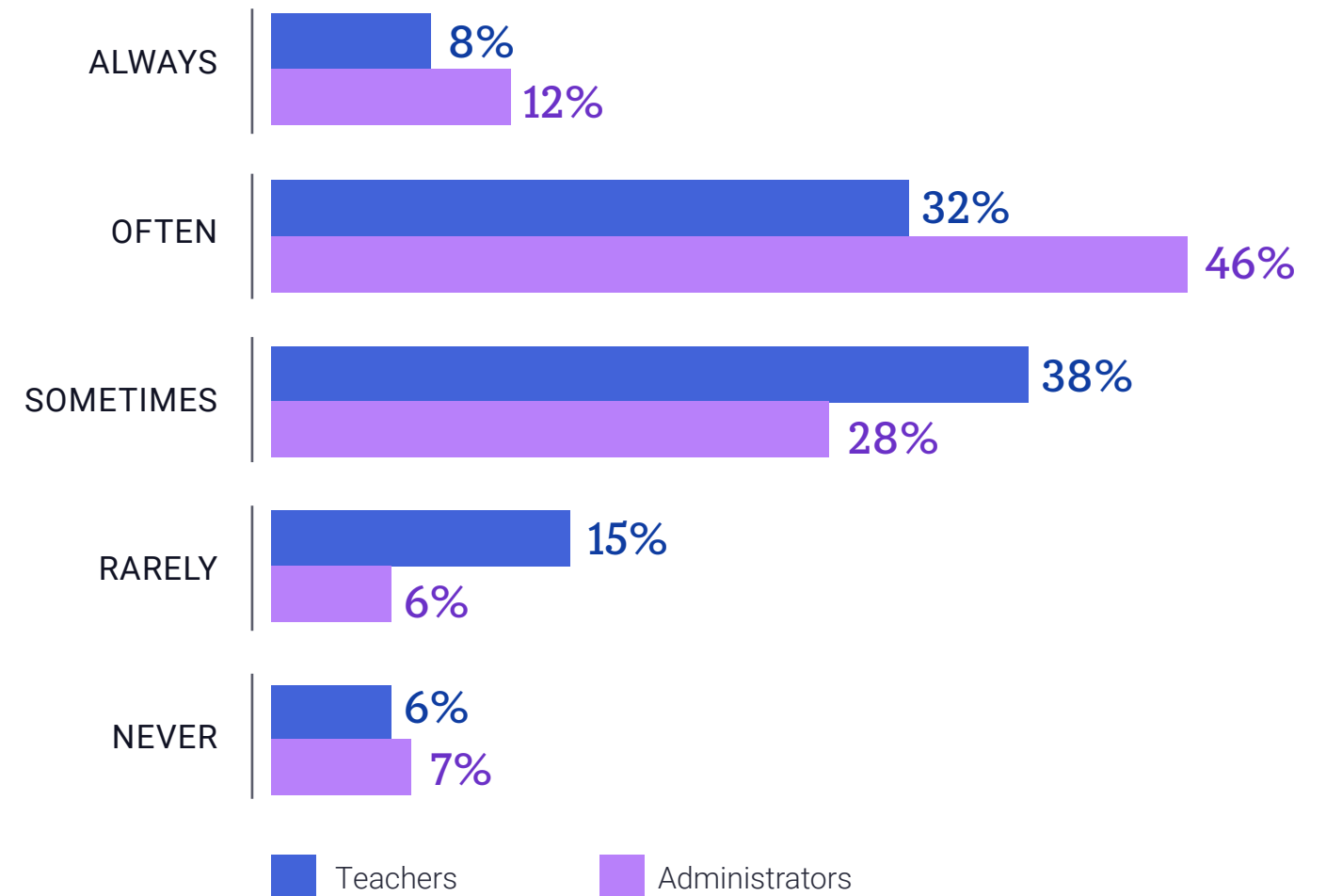
Our **2024 report** found that 31% administrators used AI often or always.

Educators aren't just using ChatGPT anymore

"I like ChatGPT because it's easy to use and free, but for protected student data I use MagicSchool"
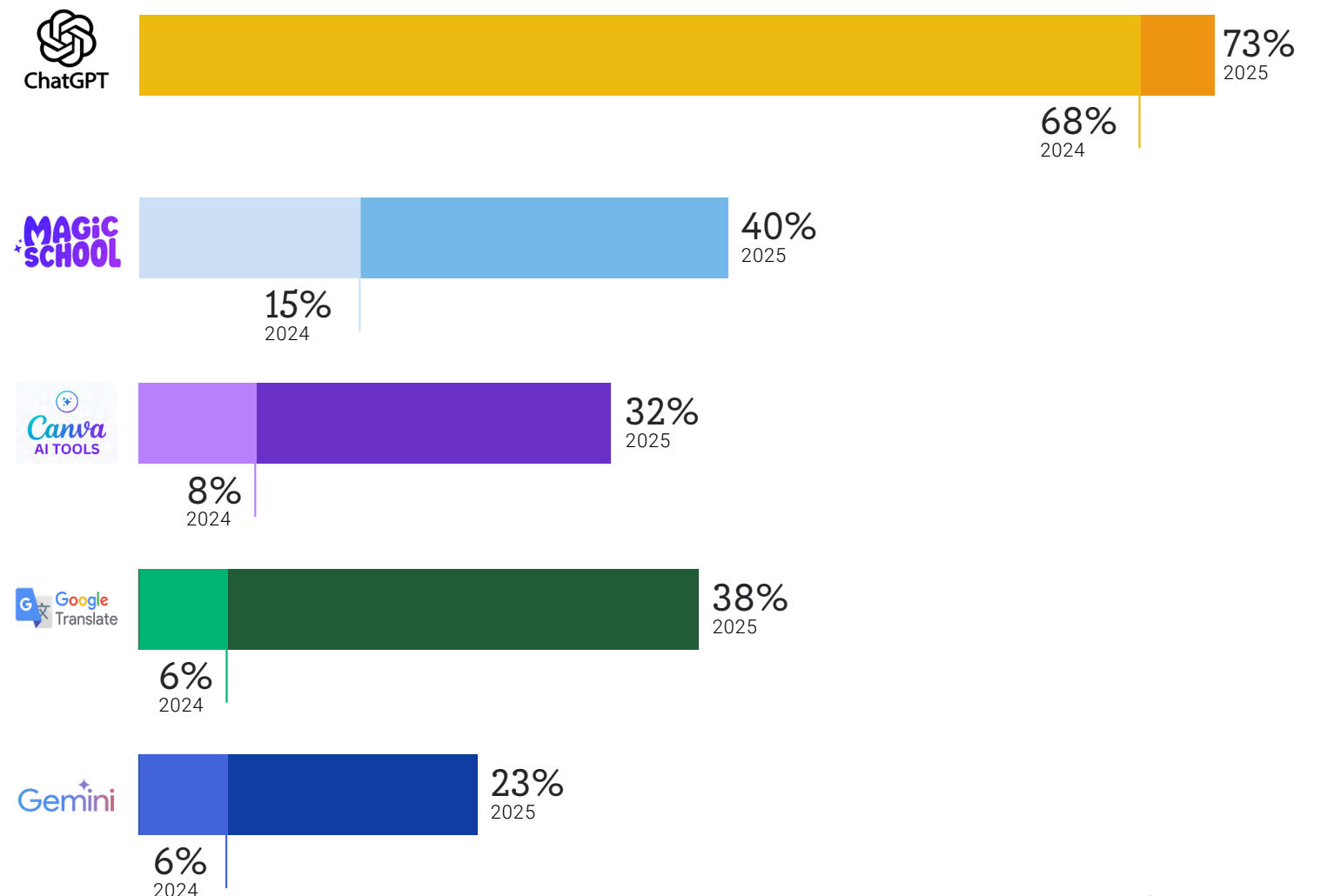
World Language Teacher

"We do a LOT of professional development with the SchoolAI program. We have other AI tools that are embedded into the other digital tools we use, like Canva AI features, Gemini and Notebook LM, but SchoolAI is the biggest AI tool. We discourage teachers from using ChatGPT because of the student data privacy concerns."

District-level administrator

Last year, ChatGPT dominated. This year, ChatGPT is still the top-used AI tool, **but others are catching up.**

These are the same top 5 tools as 2024.

ChatGPT
73% 2025
68% 2024

MagicSchool
40% 2025
15% 2024

Canva AI TOOLS
32% 2025
8% 2024

Google Translate
38% 2025
6% 2024

Gemini
23% 2025
6% 2024

Teachers and administrators use AI (slightly) differently

Administrators mostly use AI to help draft written communication, while teachers mostly use AI to craft teaching materials.

Teachers' top 3 uses:

2 Brainstorming and generating ideas

1 Creating teaching materials

3 Written communication

Administrators' top 3 uses:

2 Brainstorming and generating ideas
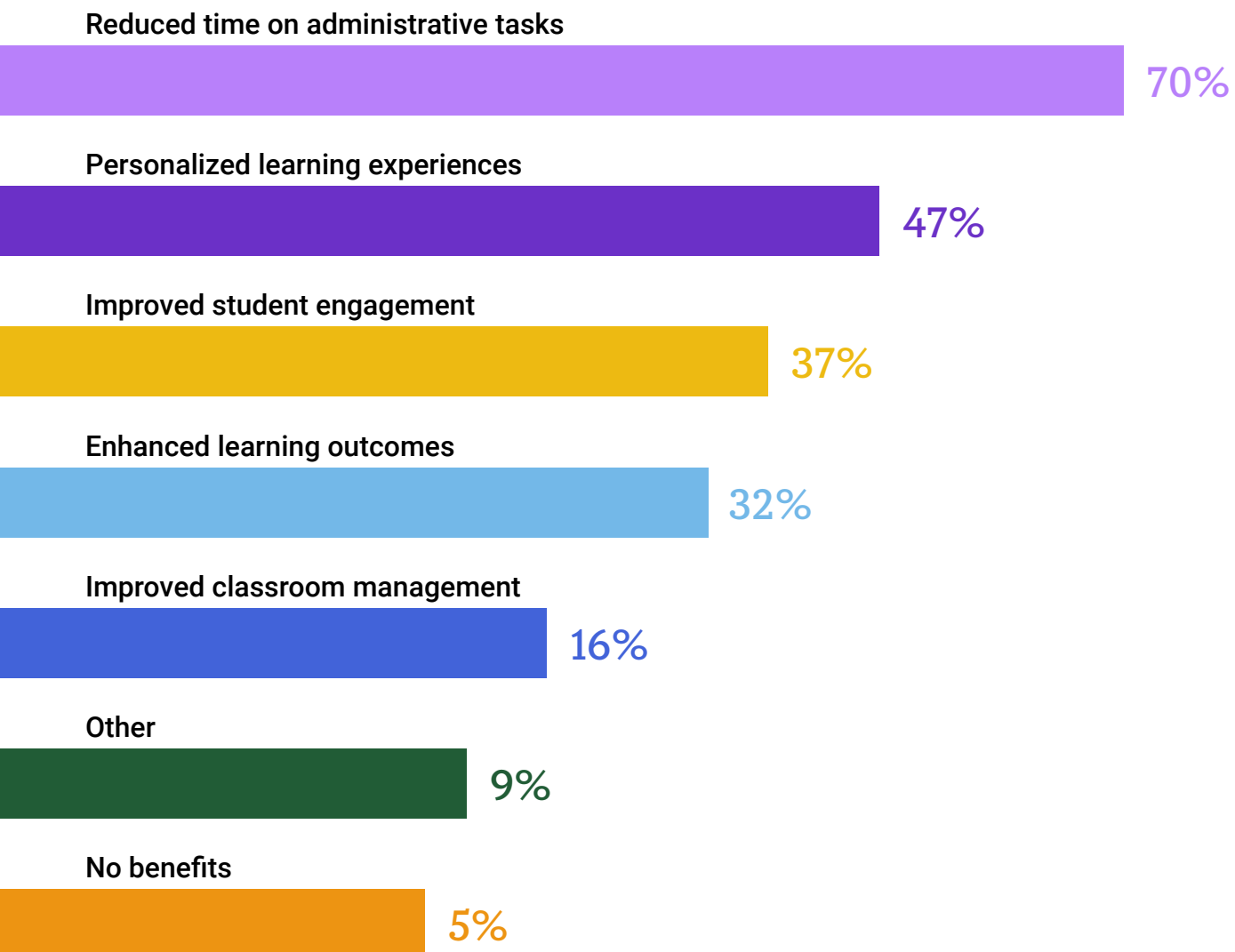
1 Written communication

3 Oral communication

Other common uses for AI between teachers and administrators include lesson planning, translating text, data analysis, and student learning tools.

Saving time is still the biggest benefit of AI

Educators ranked AI benefits in the same order both years (even when shifting from a single-choice format last year to a multi-select format this year).

Reduced time on administrative tasks

70%

Personalized learning experiences

47%

Improved student engagement

37%

Enhanced learning outcomes

32%

Improved classroom management

16%

Other

9%

No benefits

5%

EDUCATOR VOICES

"Typically, my tasks have been cut by about 10-20%, which is about 5-10 hours per week. AI has helped me with classroom walkthroughs, evaluation, coaching teachers, and creating PD materials for teachers. Instead of manually drafting observation summaries, AI can quickly generate structured, rubric-aligned feedback, allowing **more time for coaching** and meaningful conversations with teachers."

Ebelechukwu Agu
Dean of Instruction
Grand Prairie Independent School District, TX

"I would say I save at least 5-7 hours, depending on the week. AI has been a useful brainstorming partner. Once I have a starting place, I use AI to draft and revise. Always, I want to keep the human element in my work, so I never want to just fully automate everything, but sharing the brain capacity for repetitive or administrative tasks allows me **more brain power** for the creative & humane parts of my job."

Kiera Beddes
Digital Teaching & Learning Specialist
Jordan School District, UT

Engagement is the most important benefit of AI for students

EDUCATOR VOICES

"In today's high school mathematics classroom, teachers are constantly competing against the allure of the quick-paced and to-the-point short videos featured on TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube Shorts, etc. The traditional classrooms that most educators learned in are not working for students to learn in the same way. **AI is the new Google** or Siri but exponentially more productive. With the right prompting (which needs to be taught thoughtfully), AI tools like Gemini and ChatGPT can be used to engage learners more effectively as the opportunities for differentiation are leveraged. In my own classroom, I've used AI to tailor mathematics scenarios to the athlete, the future business entrepreneur, the video gamer, and the musician."

Shannon Zarobsky
High School Math Teacher
Joliet Township High School
District 204, IL

The #1 potential benefit of students using AI was the newest answer choice added to this year's survey: increasing student engagement.

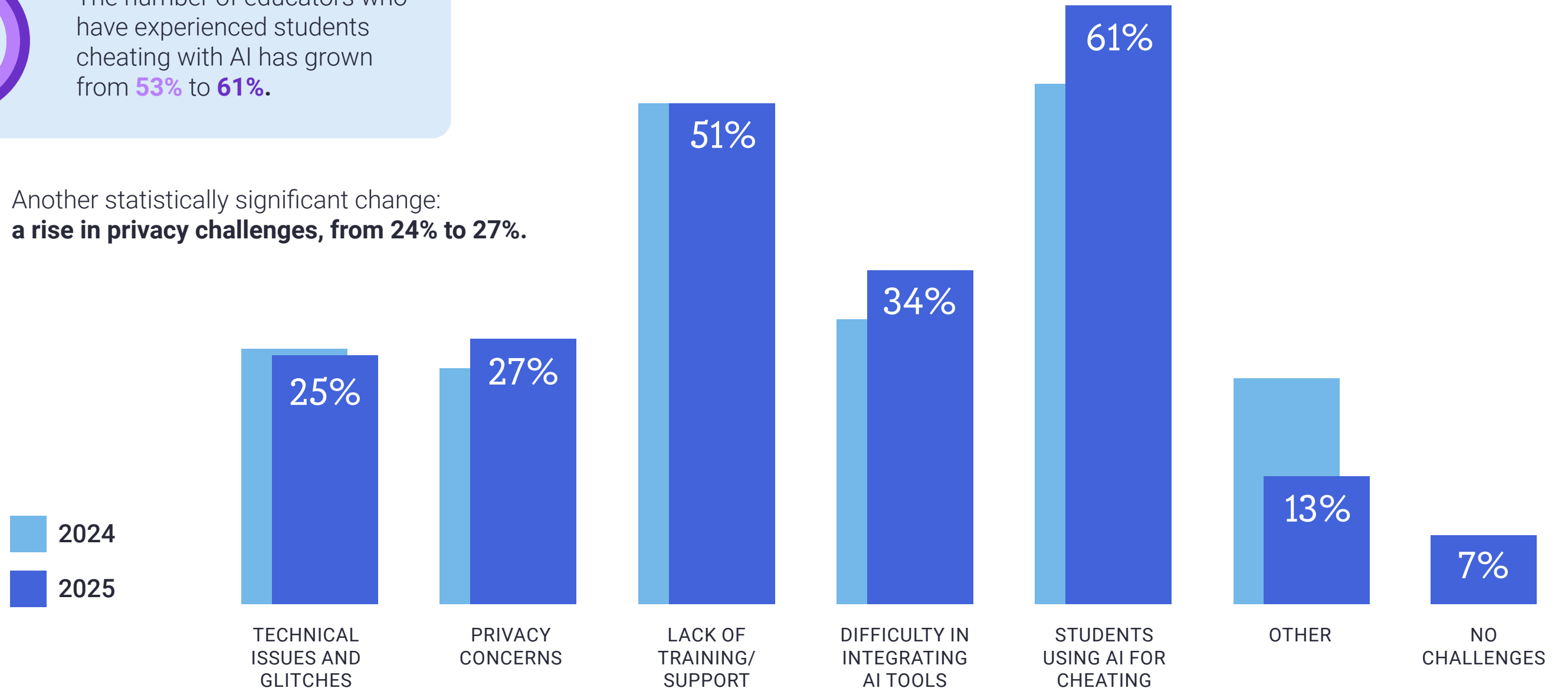**Here's how educators ranked the importance of potential student benefits this year:**

1. Increasing student engagement
2. Building a deeper understanding of concepts or lessons
3. Creating more equitable learning environments
4. Raising student achievement
5. Saving students time/making learning more efficient
6. Fostering creativity

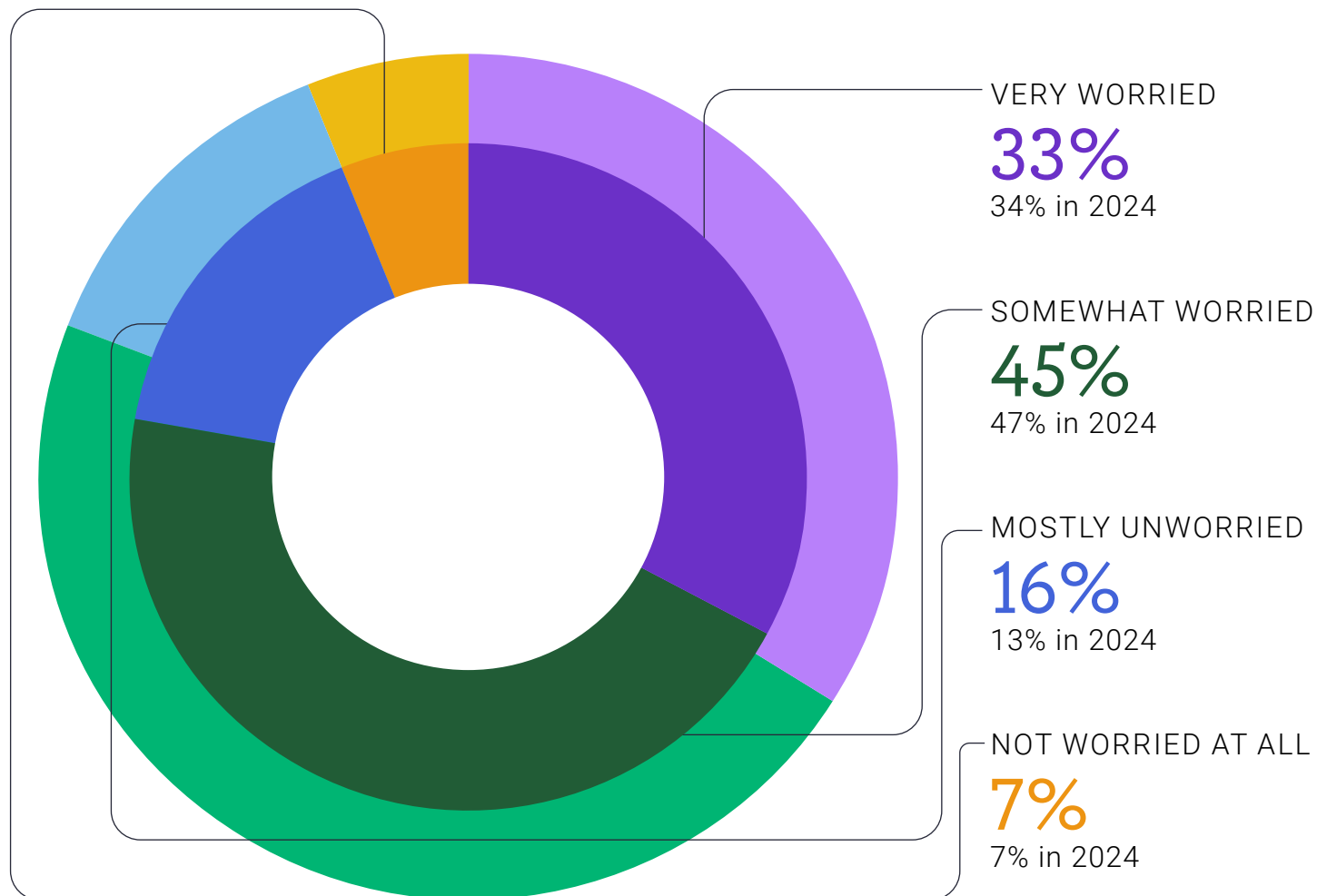# Cheating is still the biggest challenge–and it's growing

The number of educators who have experienced students cheating with AI has grown from **53%** to **61%.**

Another statistically significant change: **a rise in privacy challenges, from 24% to 27%.**

2024
2025

25%	27%	51%	34%	61%	13%	7%
TECHNICAL ISSUES AND GLITCHES	PRIVACY CONCERNS	LACK OF TRAINING/ SUPPORT	DIFFICULTY IN INTEGRATING AI TOOLS	STUDENTS USING AI FOR CHEATING	OTHER	NO CHALLENGES

Educators are just as worried about cheating as last year

Although educators experiencing students cheating with AI has increased, worries over cheating are nearly identical to last year:

VERY WORRIED
33%
34% in 2024

SOMEWHAT WORRIED
45%
47% in 2024

MOSTLY UNWORRIED
16%
13% in 2024

NOT WORRIED AT ALL
7%
7% in 2024

EDUCATOR VOICES

"I'm not worried about students using AI to cheat because I believe the key to addressing this challenge lies in designing learning experiences that make AI a tool for growth rather than an avenue for shortcuts. **Cheating typically happens when students feel overwhelmed, disconnected, or unsure about their ability to succeed.** By integrating AI meaningfully into the classroom, I can show students how to use it ethically to support their learning, such as brainstorming ideas, improving their writing, or exploring complex concepts in new ways."

Paula Johnson
Grades 8-12 Virtual Special Education Teacher
Marshalltown Virtual Academy, IA

Concerns about AI privacy issues are also stable.

There is no statistically significant change in the proportion of those who are somewhat or very concerned.

Very concerned

22%

26% in 2024

Somewhat concerned

54%

50% in 2024

AI policies are more common than last year…

… but most schools still don't have one.

In 2024

20%

of schools/districts had AI policies

In 2025

40%

of schools/districts have AI policies

AI policies differ by setting and funding

Title I schools and districts are significantly less likely to have an official AI policy than non-Title I schools/districts.

34%

Title I schools/districts have a 34% rate of having AI policies

46%

non-Title I schools/districts have a 46% rate of having AI policies

Rural schools and districts are also significantly less likely to have an AI policy than suburban or urban ones.

SUBURBAN
44%

URBAN
45%

RURAL
31%
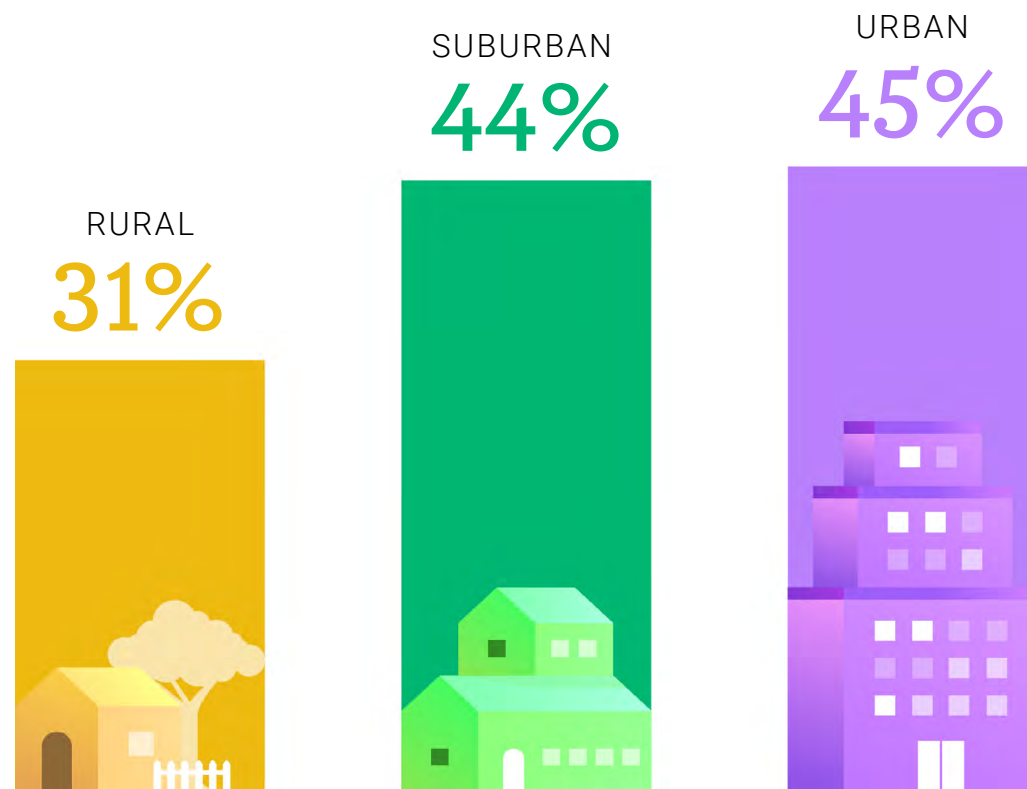
EDUCATOR VOICES

"In our small community, technology is still relatively new—students didn't have 1:1 Chromebooks until COVID, and many adults are still learning to navigate through websites and social media. AI is already part of daily life, but most people don't realize they're using it. **Without that understanding, writing a policy feels premature.** Before we can put an AI policy in place, our community first needs to understand and embrace AI at some level. Small districts like ours tend to wait and see how larger or nearby schools handle these issues before following suit."

Donna Eskut
Federal Programs Director
Murray County Board of Education, GA

More teachers are discussing proper AI usage with students

EDUCATOR VOICES

"AI is to this generation what spell check tools, search engines, and calculators were to recent generations. It is a technology that is readily available and will be an expected skill set in future employment to improve the quality of produced work. Because of this, **we must teach how to responsibly and ethically use AI tools** while still maintaining the integrity of student work. As with everything else I have seen over the past 25 years in the classroom, as educators, we need to adapt and make sure that we are still asking the right questions in the right environment in order to properly evaluate our students' progress, while also (and more importantly) helping them to build skills, with and without AI, so they can be prepared for various situations."
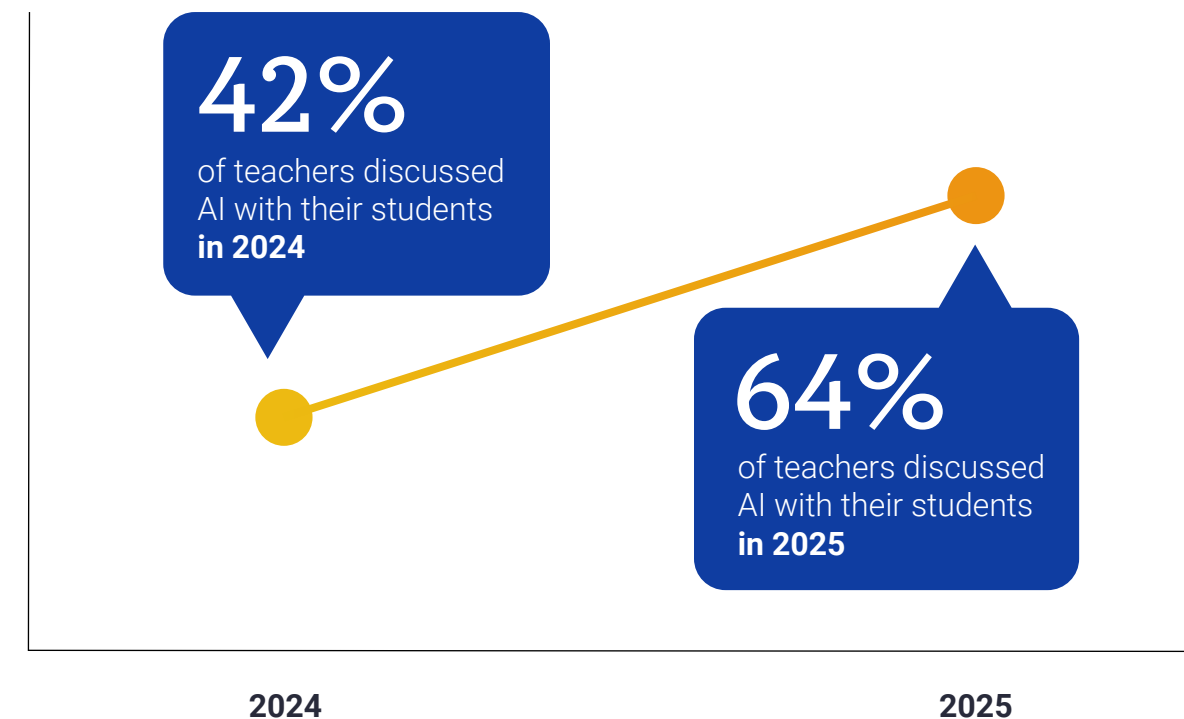
Ethan Weker
Math Teacher
Mid-Peninsula High School, CA

3 out of 5 teachers have discussed proper and improper uses of AI with students.

Last year, 2 out of 5 did, or **22% fewer teachers.**

42%
of teachers discussed AI with their students **in 2024**

64%
of teachers discussed AI with their students **in 2025**

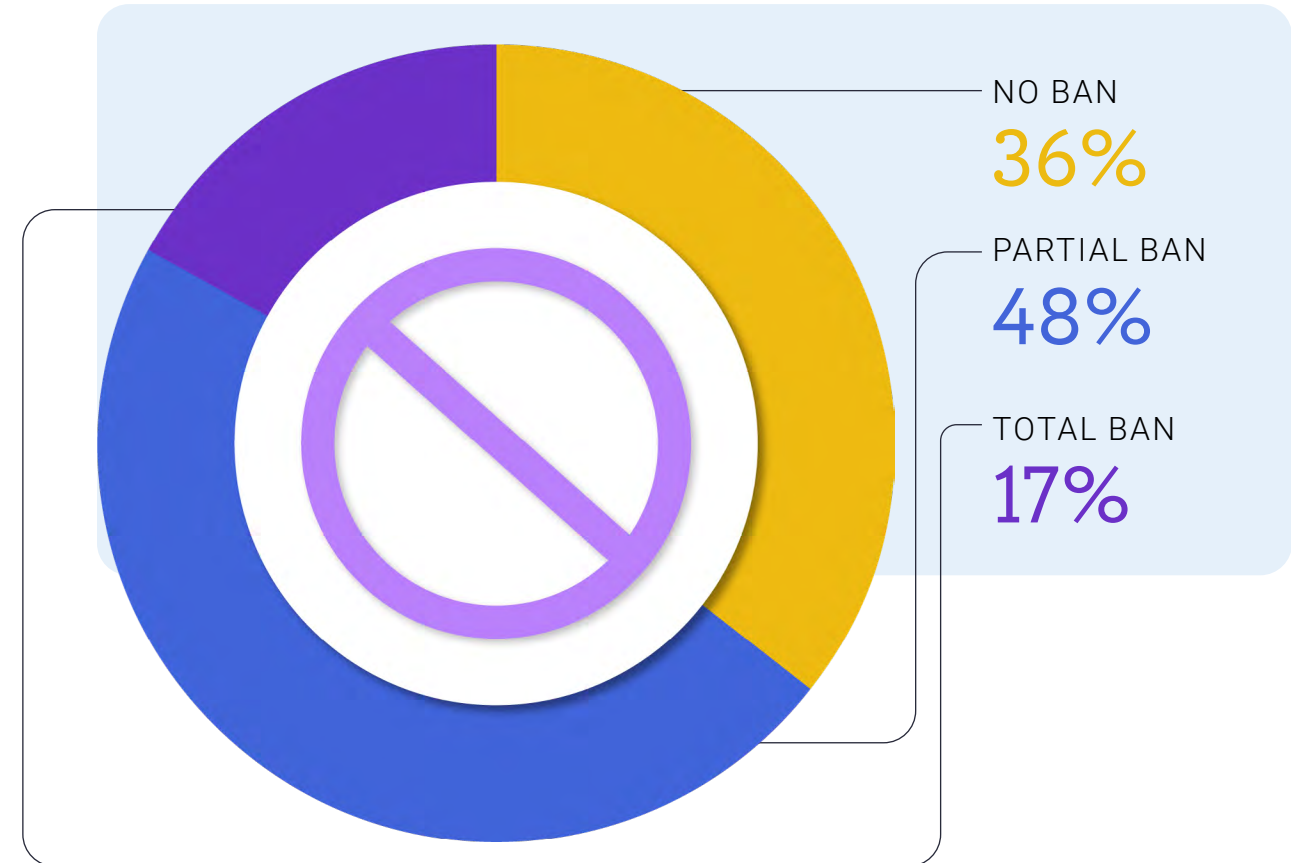2024   2025

Half of educators impose partial bans on AI

Close to 50% of both teachers and administrators partially restrict students from using AI—rather than blanket permission or a total ban.

Classroom-Level AI Restrictions

NO BAN
29%

PARTIAL BAN
50%

TOTAL BAN
21%
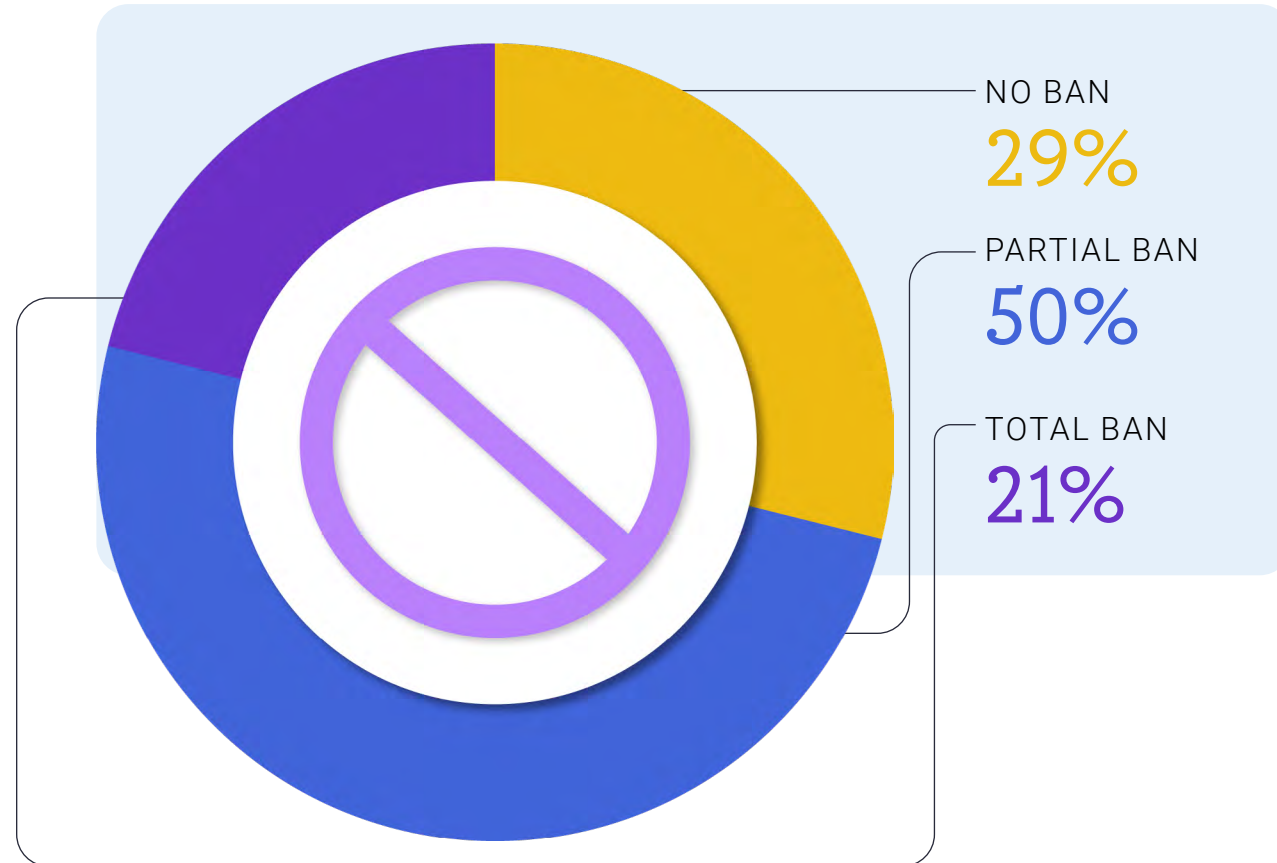
School- or District-Level AI Restrictions

NO BAN
36%

PARTIAL BAN
48%

TOTAL BAN
17%

AI training is up, but still a challenge

There was a 74% increase in the percentage of schools and districts that have provided AI training… but educators still identify lack of training and support as a challenge at the same rate, 51%.

Percentage of schools that provided AI training

24%

2024

43%

2025
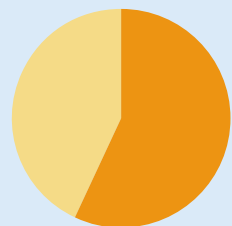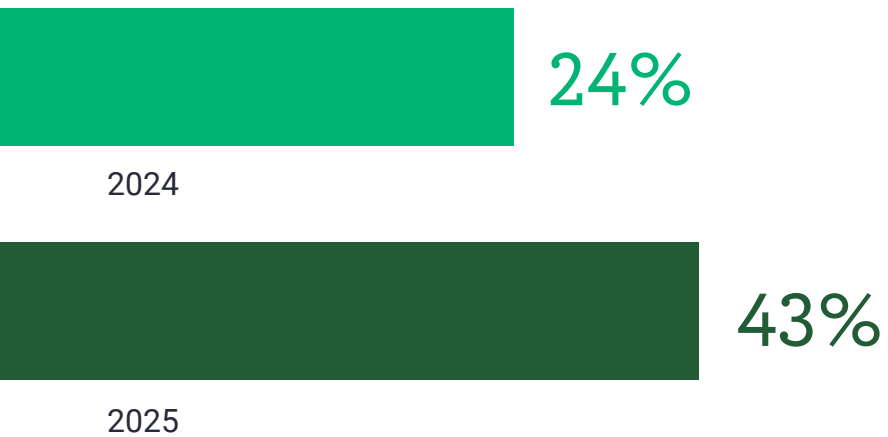
57% of schools and districts **have not provided AI training.**

EDUCATOR VOICES

"I believe AI is a great tool, but **I would love more training** with examples of how teachers use it. It is a tool that can enhance our lessons so we should not be afraid of it."

Lisa Theriault
Spanish Teacher
Saint Edward's School, FL

"One of the biggest obstacles in providing AI training for teachers is changing the mindset of teachers to see AI as a tool for their use and equipping teachers with the knowledge of teaching their students **the proper use of AI**, not to use it as a shortcut or way to get around using brainpower."

Mary Ann Danford
Principal
Genesis Innovative School, AL

AI ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS

More educators think AI is helpful

More educators find AI helpful this year than last year... but teachers had the biggest change of heart.

77% 2024 **93%** 2025
ALL EDUCATORS

75% 2024 **93%** 2025
TEACHERS

84% 2024 **91%** 2025
ADMINISTRATORS
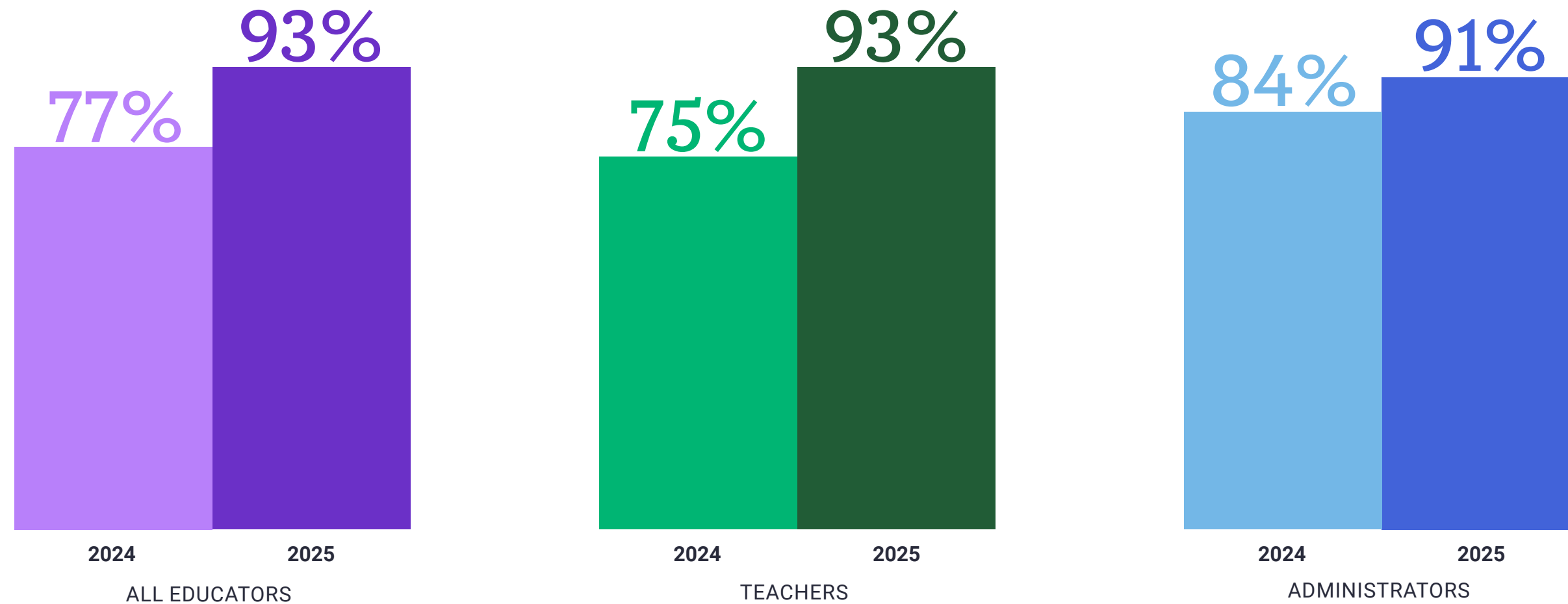
18% more teachers find AI helpful in 2025 than 2024.

AI is more helpful for math teachers

EDUCATOR VOICES

"It is not helpful to students to copy their work from AI which is what many students tend to do. However, if students can be properly taught to use AI in a responsible manner, they can use it as a starting point for their research."
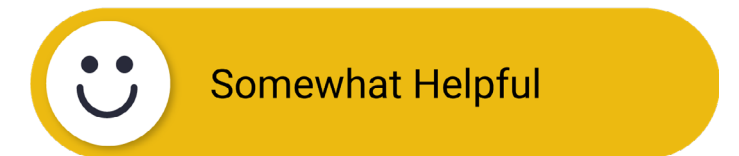
Amy Burger
English Teacher
Phoenix Academy, PA

While most teachers find AI helpful, math teachers find it significantly more helpful than ELA or world language teachers.
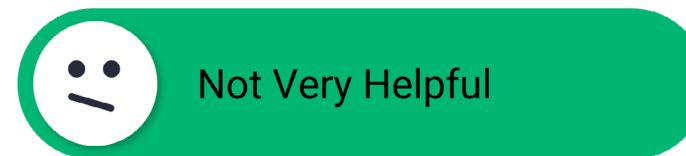
Extremely Helpful

19%
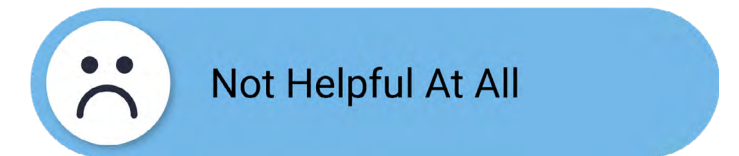MATH TEACHERS

16%
ELA/WL TEACHERS

Somewhat Helpful

70%
MATH TEACHERS

59%
ELA/WL TEACHERS

Not Very Helpful

10%
MATH TEACHERS

21%
ELA/WL TEACHERS

Not Helpful At All

1%
MATH TEACHERS

4%
ELA/WL TEACHERS

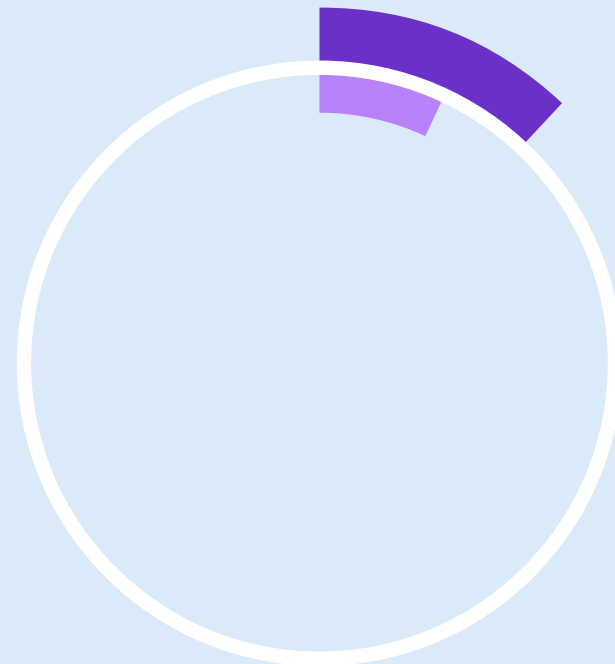# More educators are comfortable with students using AI

Significantly more educators are comfortable with their students using AI for schoolwork than last year:

59% are very or somewhat comfortable, compared to **31%** last year.

Very comfortable
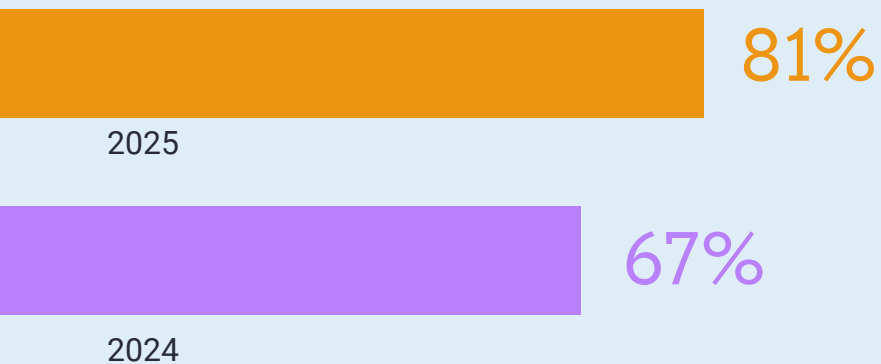
12%

7% in 2024

Somewhat comfortable

46%

24% in 2024

AI optimism is rising… for teachers, not administrators

81% of educators are somewhat or extremely optimistic about the future of AI in education.
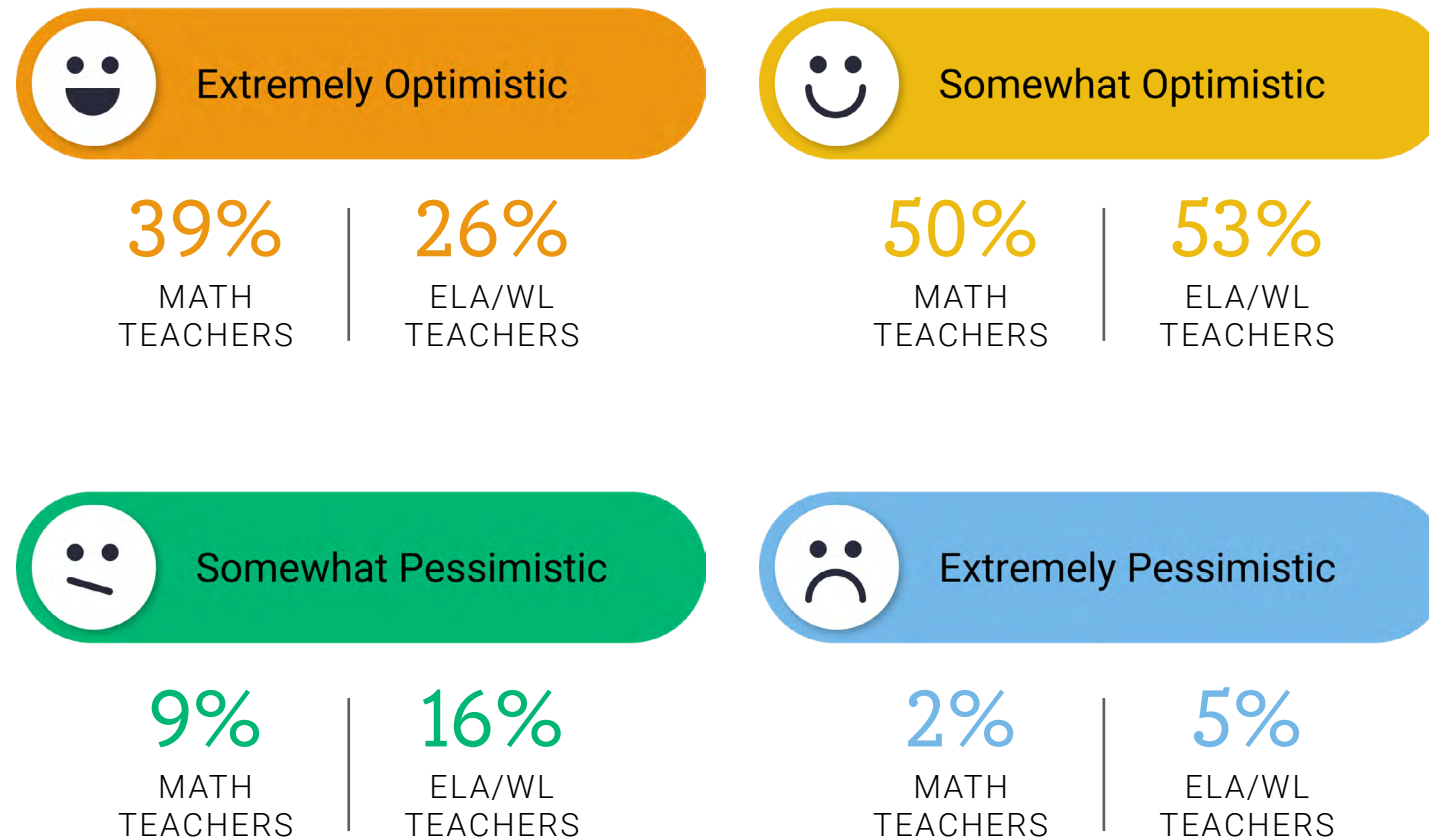
Last year, 67% were.

81%
2025

67%
2024

But teachers have gained optimism, not administrators. Teachers' rate of extreme optimism rose by 10%, while administrators' stagnated. Teachers' optimism is catching up to administrators' but is still lower.

22%
2024

32%
2025

TEACHERS

39%
2024

40%
2025

ADMINISTRATORS
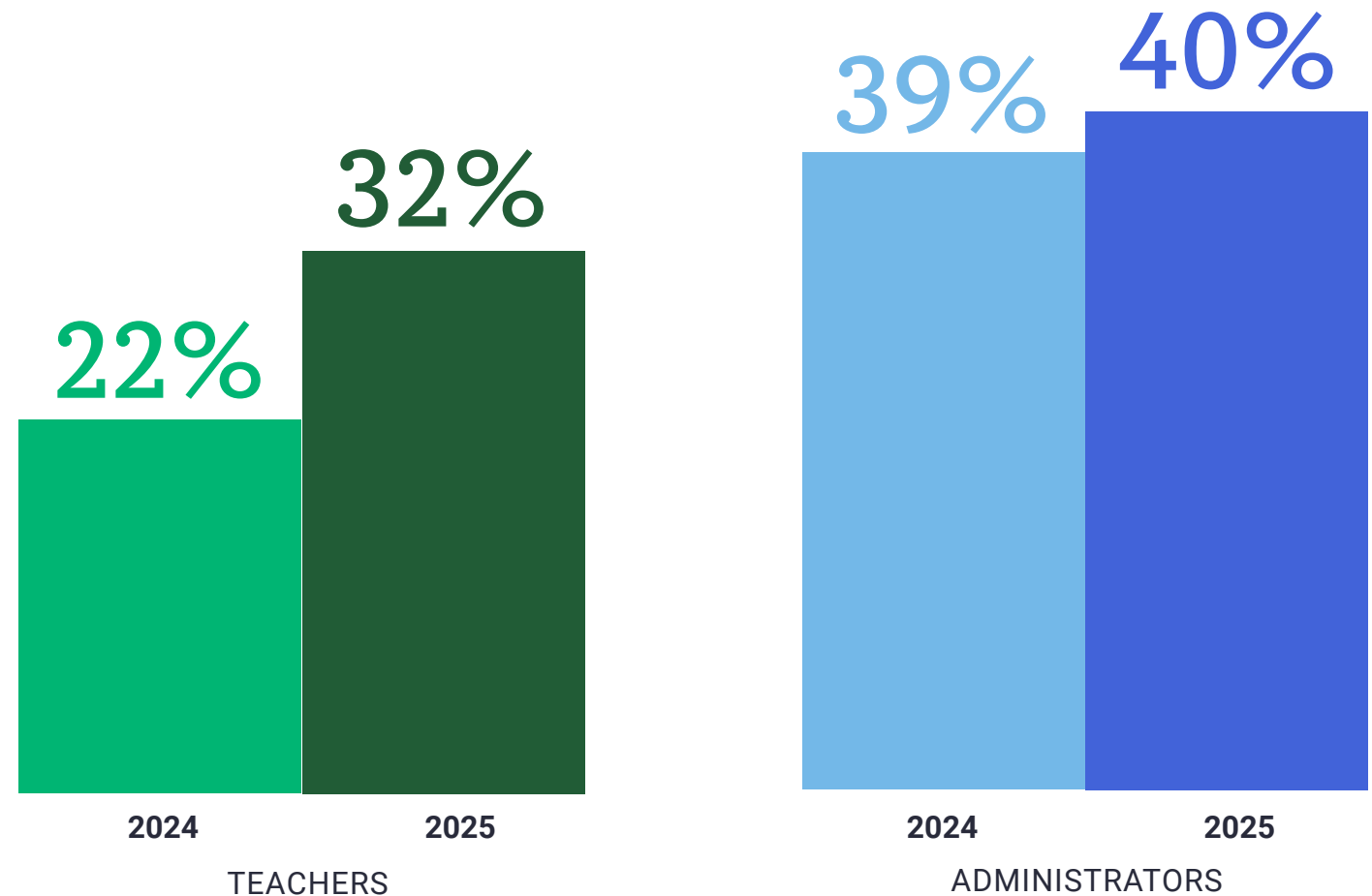
Math teachers are more optimistic

Math teachers report significantly higher rates of optimism about the future of AI in education than world language and ELA teachers.

Extremely Optimistic

39%
MATH TEACHERS

26%
ELA/WL TEACHERS

Somewhat Optimistic

50%
MATH TEACHERS

53%
ELA/WL TEACHERS

Somewhat Pessimistic

9%
MATH TEACHERS

16%
ELA/WL TEACHERS

Extremely Pessimistic

2%
MATH TEACHERS

5%
ELA/WL TEACHERS

EDUCATOR VOICES

"AI is helpful to me as a math teacher because of its utility as an intelligent tutor. I can create an AI Tutor blueprint that allows me to program ChatGPT with a prompt that will guide a student in learning a concept. I've used this in math for finding an unknown value in a ratio table and in science to explain how thermonuclear fusion occurs in the Sun's core. The tutoring blueprint goes on to ask essential understandings to teach, common misconceptions that learners might face, and even real world applications that I would like to include. **It totally changes the game** in a classroom where one teacher isn't enough to go around when it comes to helping students acquire new learning."

Heather Black Alexander
5th/6th Grade Math + Science Teacher
The Ancona School, IL

Meet the 6 types of AI users

We categorize AI users into six types based on frequency of AI usage and optimism about the future of AI in education.

AI Enthusiasts
(Always/Often + Extremely Optimistic)

- Passionate early adopters who embrace AI's potential
- Believe AI is a game-changer for education

Pragmatic Users
(Always/Often + Somewhat Optimistic/Pessimistic)

- Use AI because it's useful but have mixed or cautious feelings
- Open to AI but may have reservations

Skeptical Adopters
(Always/Often + Extremely Pessimistic)

- Use AI despite deep skepticism
- May feel forced to adopt AI due to workplace demands

Hopeful Bystanders
(Sometimes/Rarely/Never + Extremely Optimistic)

- Believe AI has great potential but don't use it frequently
- Could be limited by access, training, or institutional policies

Cautious Observers
(Sometimes/Rarely/Never + Somewhat Optimistic/Pessimistic)

- Neutral or undecided about AI
- May be waiting for better tools, more research, or clearer guidelines

Traditionalists
(Sometimes/Rarely/Never + Extremely Pessimistic)

- Avoid AI and strongly distrust it
- Prefer traditional teaching methods and see AI as a threat or unnecessary

What type of AI user are you?

The majority of educators–40%–are cautious observers. A fifth of educators are AI enthusiasts and another fifth are pragmatic users. Only 4% are traditionalists.

What type of AI user are you?

	Always/often	Sometimes/rarely/never
Extremely optimistic	AI enthusiasts (21%)	Hopeful bystanders (12%)
Somewhat optimistic/pessimistic	Pragmatic users (22%)	Cautious observers (40%)
Extremely pessimistic	Skeptical adopters (0.5%)	Traditionalists (4%)

EDUCATOR VOICES

AI ENTHUSIAST

I'm really excited about AI and have thrown myself right into understanding and navigating it. I've attended webinars and a conference, have taken courses, subscribed to tech journals, began following a few notable AI enthusiasts on Substack, and was recently featured in Tom Daccord's book, *AI Tools + Uses: A Practical Guide for Teachers*. Currently, I sit on our school's newly established AI Advisory board. **AI is changing the landscape of education.** Resisting its inevitability shifts our students right out of the emerging paradigm.

–Heather Black Alexander
5th/6th Grade Math + Science Teacher
The Ancona School, IL

PRAGMATIC USER

I see AI as a big elephant in the room, that is, **I cannot ignore it without negative consequences.** However, I am committed to training and understanding this elephant by using my voice and will to the benefit of my students' learning and to improve my art of teaching.

-Thanh Le
High School Science & Computer Science Teacher
Montebello Unified School District, CA

The future of AI

Our 2025 report on AI in education highlights a pivotal shift: AI is becoming increasingly integrated into K-12 education. Educators are not only growing more comfortable with using it and having their students use it, but overall optimism about AI's potential is also on the rise. While concerns about cheating and privacy remain, more teachers are instructing students on responsible AI usage, and more districts are providing training and support.

As we continue to monitor the evolving trajectory of AI in education, our research signals several actionable next steps, particularly for administrators.

Action items for administrators

1 Create clear guidelines on AI use for teachers and students that address academic integrity and data privacy. Seek input from teachers, students, and parents in shaping those policies.

2 Invest in AI literacy programs to help students use AI ethically rather than banning it outright.

3 Provide structured AI training for teachers, focusing on practical applications like lesson planning and grading.

4 Use AI to automate repetitive administrative tasks (*e.g.*, scheduling, email drafting) while maintaining human oversight.

We believe the key to progress is collaboration—among administrators, teachers, families, and solutions providers like us. By working together, we can leverage AI to enhance, rather than replace, the essential human aspects of education.

Want to provide AI training at your school or district? Explore our AI for Education Workshops, designed specifically to help K-12 educators enhance teaching and learning with AI.

Tell Me More