AI in Education – News & Trends | August 2025

What Schools Need to Know This Month

From Regulation to Fair Practice

In **August 2025**, education visibly enters the **implementation phase**: European obligations for **General-Purpose AI (GPAI)** have taken effect, and Dutch guidance documents now help translate them into procurement, governance, and classroom practice.

Human oversight is becoming operationalised — not ritual, but corrective where needed. Support is growing, yet teachers call for time and training; school boards are tightening **tool registers, DPIAs, and supplier questionnaires**.

The direction for the new school year: apply AI safely, account for it transparently, and use it meaningfully in teaching.

Overview – August 2025 at a Glance

Theme	Key Development	Meaning
EU Regulation	GPAI obligations take effect on 2 August 2025.	Supplier documentation and transparency required; schools must ensure these are reflected in contracts and process agreements.
Dutch Interpretation	Government and sector organisations publish AI Act guides and "What changes for education" documents.	Update AI tool registers and DPIAs; formalise decision trees and update cycles.
Support & Practice Space	Sector-wide clarifications and (summer) training increase acceptance; demand for safe experimentation remains.	Plan team exercises and reflection; phased roll-out (pilot → evaluation → embedding).
International	EC issues teacher guidelines; OECD highlights open-weight and openness; Australia/US showcase pilots with inclusion focus.	Trend: from innovation to auditability, transparency, and equal opportunity.

The Netherlands

AI Act – GPAI from Paper to Practice

From 2 August 2025, obligations for General-Purpose AI apply: providers must ensure documentation, risk management, and notification procedures (for systemic

risks) are in place. Schools should see this reflected in supplier information and contractual terms.
For teachers: Use only approved accounts; be transparent when AI is used (for assignments or feedback).
For management: Update AI tool registers and processor agreements to include GPAI requirements (documentation, provenance, update policy, rights).

Professional Development and Materials

Alongside existing guides, practical toolkits and handbooks are emerging for school-level agreements and classroom use of generative AI.
For teachers: Start with short (10–15 min) micro-exercises for feedback or differentiation; follow school AI guidelines.
For management: Plan basic training per topic and integrate it into assessment programmes (PTA) or formative learning cycles.

Support and Inclusion

Support is growing, but skill and time disparities persist. Watch for equity issues in prompting and language sensitivity.
For teachers: Provide explicit instruction in strategic prompting and critical thinking; offer alternative routes for pupils struggling with language.
For management: Monitor equity impacts and plan targeted support (e.g. for vocational and primary education, language or socio-economic gaps).

International Reflections

European Commission – Teachers as AI Directors

The European Commission released new Educator Guidelines on the ethical and pedagogical use of AI in education. They stress that teachers must remain in control: AI may support differentiation and administration but must not drive assessment or selection.
Core message: Professional autonomy is the foundation of responsible AI use.
Trend: From casual innovation to responsible, auditable practice under human oversight.

OECD & GPAI – Openness as a Trust Strategy

The OECD and the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) published AI Openness: A Primer for Policymakers, advocating open-weight models and accessible data documentation. For educational institutions, this means understanding the origins and training of AI models becomes a governance duty.
Core message: Transparency and openness are now policy tools protecting public institutions from black-box risks.
Trend: Openness and verifiability are replacing innovation as the primary benchmark of good governance.

United States – Pilots as a Testing Ground for Policy

Across the US, schools use the summer to test AI in controlled, small-scale settings. Districts link experiments to privacy impact assessments and publish results. The federal government supports this via the AI Education Challenge, funding programmes that measure learning outcomes and test ethical frameworks.
Core message: Innovation is legitimate only when it proves both learning benefit and fairness.
Trend: *Evidence-first* — from pilots to policy based on measurable results.

Australia – Transparency through "AI Impact Statements"

Since August, Australian school boards are required to publish an AI Impact Statement explaining the ethical, pedagogical, and organisational implications of AI use for pupils and staff. This raises not only transparency but also public accountability.
Core message: Boards are publicly accountable for their AI choices.
Trend: Shift from internal governance to public responsibility — a mirror for the Netherlands.

UNESCO – AI in Service of Humanity and Justice

UNESCO's ongoing *Nine Principles for Responsible AI in Education* campaign reminds member states that AI must never lead to exclusion or automated decisions without human judgement. Schools are urged to see AI as a teaching aid, not a grader.
Core message: AI has value only when it strengthens human values.
Trend: Human-in-the-loop and inclusion remain the universal standards for responsible education.

UNESCO – Global AI Competencies

UNESCO's AI Competency Frameworks (2025) define the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to understand and use AI responsibly.
Trend: AI literacy is now seen globally as a measurable learning outcome — comparable to digital literacy.

📊 August 2025 in Figures

Figure	Topic	Meaning / Context	Source (2025)
85 %	Teachers and students (US) use AI	Usage ranges from lesson planning to tutoring; AI is now widely embedded in the 2024–2025 school year.	Center for Democracy and Technology
70 %	Teachers (US) worry about loss of critical thinking	Many educators fear AI may weaken students' ability to reason and analyse independently.	Center for Democracy and Technology
60 %	US K-12 teachers use AI	Mainly for summaries, feedback, and grading support; adoption grows faster than guidance.	Bowdoin College – AI in High School Education Report
68 %	Korean students have used ChatGPT	Widespread use, yet only 23 % trust AI-generated advertising; awareness of reliability issues increases.	ZDNet Korea
29 %	Positive sentiment in the Netherlands towards AI for individual learning needs	Cautious optimism: growing trust, but limited insight into pedagogical added value.	AI Barometer 2025
18 %	Dutch teachers actively use AI	Use is rising, but many teachers still lack guidance, time, and space to experiment.	AI Barometer 2025

🎯 Action Points for Schools

Focus / Theme	For School Management	For Teachers / Teams	Timeframe
Policy & Governance	Review processor agreements and contracts for GPAI compliance; update AI tool register and audit cycle.	Follow the school "go/no-go" list for AI use; note AI involvement in assignments.	0–3 months
Professional Development	Plan foundational training per department (assessment, oversight, privacy); link to PTA/curriculum.	Practise weekly "prompt labs" for feedback/differentiation; share lesson examples.	Current school year
Ethical Use	Safeguard human intervention and appeal in testing, placement, and care; monitor equity.	Use ethical case studies (bias, transparency) and explain AI use to pupils.	Ongoing
Technology & Privacy	Check DPIAs for model documentation, provenance, and update policy; request supplier statements.	Avoid sensitive data in prompts; use only school accounts.	0–3 months
Research & Reflection	Plan biannual impact reviews (learning outcomes, workload, equity) and report to the board.	Document what works/doesn't (lesson logs) and share within the department.	3–6 months

Final Reflection

AI policy is only truly responsible when it is also fair in the classroom. Schools that now combine tool registers, intervention procedures, and team-based exercises make AI safe, explainable, and empowering — with the human visibly in control.

From trend to practice

Would you like to translate these insights into your school's context? **Symbio6** helps schools implement AI thoughtfully and humanely — with **on-the-job coaching, team training**, and **practical programmes** on AI literacy, policy, and didactics.

More information: symbio6.nl/en/our-services

Further reading

⬅ **July 2025** – From Policy to Practice

➡ **September 2025** – From Implementation to Accountability

📚 All monthly reports: symbio6.nl/en/trends