



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 767

Resolution calling on the New York City Department of Education to mandate training on generative artificial intelligence tools, including for potential classroom implementation, for all educators.

By Council Members Joseph, Powers, Gutierrez, Abreu, Schulman, Menin, Farías, Ossé, Hanif, Krishnan, De La Rosa, Riley, Williams, Bottcher, Rivera, Louis, Nurse, Hudson, Brewer and Narcisse (by request of the Manhattan Borough President)

Whereas, Generative artificial intelligence (AI) is a type of AI that can generate new content, including text, images, and videos, through learning patterns from pre-existing data; and

Whereas, Examples of generative AI systems include image generators, large language models, code generation tools, or audio generation tools; and

Whereas, Open AI's ChatGPT, a chatbot powered by an underlying large language model, is trained to follow an instruction in a prompt and provide a detailed response in a humanlike conversational dialogue within seconds; and

Whereas, Since its public release, ChatGPT has become the fastest-growing consumer application in history, growing from one million users following its launch in November 2022 to over 100 million users in January 2023; and

Whereas, With the release and growth of ChatGPT, Google's Bard, and similar generative AI systems, critics have both touted and condemned the impact of generative AI on society; and

Whereas, In a February 23, 2023, Wall Street Journal editorial, Henry Kissinger, Eric Schmidt, and Daniel Huttenlocher claim "[g]enerative [AI] presents a philosophical and practical challenge on a scale not experienced since the start of the Enlightenment" with the invention of the printing press; and

Whereas, A widely discussed concern about generative AI has centered around education and the

potential for students to improperly use the technology, such as to plagiarize assignments; and

Whereas, According to a January 2023 Intelligent.com poll, 30 percent of college students have used ChatGPT on written homework assignments, while research published in March 2023 by the Walton Family Foundation showed that 33 percent of students aged 12 to 17 use ChatGPT for schoolwork; and

Whereas, Generative AI chatbots rely on patterns learned in training, which can be based on non-factual information and which could result in false narratives and misinformed outputs; and

Whereas, In a first-person piece published May 18, 2023, by Chalkbeat New York, the New York City Department of Education Chancellor David Banks asserted that “the reality [is] that our students are participating in and will work in a world where understanding generative AI is crucial”; and

Whereas, For generative AI to be useful and reliable, there must be a concentrated effort and an ongoing conversation in academia to adapt to generative AI, including how it can be effectively integrated into education; and

Whereas, Generative AI is a huge technological breakthrough that has the potential to be a valuable resource or have devastating consequences in both education and society; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the New York City Department of Education to mandate training on generative artificial intelligence tools, including for potential classroom implementation, for all educators.

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09/06/2023
CGR