

# The Essential 4-Question Framework for Evaluating AI Tools

Not all AI is created equal. Here's how to choose the right tool for your district.

## 1. What problem are we trying to solve?

Start with the *need*, not the tool.

- ✓ Does the tool solve a specific problem?
- ✓ Does the tool align with your strategic plan?
- ✓ Does the tool enhance the educational process (rather than just mimicking existing processes on an AI platform)?
- ✗ Avoid tools that sound exciting but don't solve a clearly defined problem

## 2. Is the AI *generating* or *instructing*?

There's a big difference between tools that *coach* students and teachers versus tools that do the work for them.

- ✓ Does the tool act as a tutor or coach? Promote reflection and revision? Support skills growth?
- ✗ Avoid tools that give a shortcut without strategy

## 3. Can the data be trusted and measured?

If the same student submission gets different feedback every time, that's a problem. Generative AI changes its answers based on the prompt. That makes it tough to measure progress or ensure fairness.

- ✓ Does the tool have consistent, rules-based scoring?
- ✗ Avoid tools that use open-ended AI feedback as the sole source of grading

## 4. Who owns the learning—the student or the AI?

AI should push students to *think deeper*, not replace their thinking.

- ✓ Does the tool help students understand their thinking process?
- ✓ Does the tool model the ethical use of AI by acting as a thought partner?
- ✗ Avoid tools that make students passive, rather than active, in their learning