# China International Conference on Basic Education

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

December 13-14, 2025
Shanghai Poly Grand Theatre, Shanghai, China

# CONCEPT NOTE

## Background

**Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies profoundly impact educational transformation.**

Science and technology are critical drivers of educational change. Throughout history, innovations such as papermaking, printing, broadcasting, television, computers, and the internet have continuously and profoundly impacted learning content, instructional methods, teacher–student relationships, school administration, and educational assessment.

In recent years, AI technologies such as ChatGPT, SORA, and DeepSeek have emerged rapidly, presenting significant challenges to existing educational models while creating new opportunities for innovative development. Although many uncertainties remain regarding AI's impact on education, there is broad consensus that AI will exert a significant and far-reaching influence on the future educational landscape - potentially yielding transformative changes that require proactive planning and response.

**Driving educational transformation through artificial intelligence has become a global issue.**

Since the beginning of the 21st century, international organizations such as UNESCO and the World Bank have facilitated and closely monitored the development of ICT and AI and their implications for education. Many countries and regions have also taken proactive measures to empower education with AI and promote educational transformation.

We note that UNESCO has issued several key documents on AI and education, including:

- Policy and Planning Framework for ICT in Education

- Beijing Consensus on Artificial Intelligence and Education

- Artificial Intelligence and Education: Guidance for Policymakers

- Guidelines for Generative AI in Education and Research

- AI Competency Frameworks for Students

- AI Competency Frameworks for Teachers

UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education also published reports such as *Technological and Educational Challenges, Capabilities and Readiness of Schools to Use the Potential of Digital Innovations and AI*. The International Bureau of Education developed the *Guidance Framework for Blended Education, Learning, and Assessment*. In 2024, the World Bank published *Artificial Intelligence Revolution in Education: What You Need to Know.*

We also note that many countries have actively explored empowering education through AI technologies.

For example:

- In 2020, the U.S. Department of Defense released the *Artificial Intelligence Education Strategy*, aiming to promote the development and application of AI through initiatives such as leading AI innovation, advancing AI development, developing AI tools, enhancing AI applications, and improving the AI literacy of the workforce.

- In 2023, the U.S. Department of Education issued *AI and the Future of Teaching and Learning*, encouraging educators to understand and apply AI technologies.

- In early 2025, the UK Government published *Generative AI in education*, offering guidance for the safe and effective use of AI in the educational sector.

- Japan's House of Representatives passed the *Act on research, development, and utilization of AI*, aimed at advancing the research, development and applications while preventing misuse.

- Australia released the *Australian Framework for Generative AI in Schools*, intended to guide different stakeholder groups on the responsible use of generative AI in education.

- In May 2023, Quebec, Canada organized a debate on AI, reaching consensus that AI should be approached with caution - not banned outright. The discussion emphasized balancing AI with human intelligence, learning to understand and coexist with it,

integrating it into learning processes ethically and responsibly, advancing AI without fully replacing human intelligence.

- Italy launched two key initiatives:(1) Establishing innovation labs to integrate AI into curricula, tailoring learning content to students' needs and interests, and engaging them in collaborative and creative projects for personalized learning. (2) Launching teacher training programs centered on three main themes: learning with AI, learning about AI, and preparing teachers for AI.

Around the world, numerous measures and initiatives are underway. Many high-tech companies are also focusing on AI innovation and application in education. Despite differing origins and focus areas, all these efforts concentrate on AI's educational impact and actively leverage it to empower education - striving for enhanced learning experiences, greater efficiency, and more equitable, accessible public educational services.

## China Is Actively Promoting AI Empowering Basic Education

Basic education is the cornerstone of a modern national education system. In the context of rapid advancements in artificial intelligence technologies, China, leveraging its national conditions and strengths, is committed to utilizing new technologies to promote educational equity, enhance education quality, and improve the educational ecosystem. It actively studies and addresses the challenges posed by AI to basic education and proactively explores effective pathways to empower basic education with AI technologies.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the Chinese government has implemented a Modern Distance Education Project for Rural Schools, leveraging ICT to deliver high-quality educational resources to rural areas, benefiting hundreds of thousands of students. At the same time, it has vigorously promoted building of the "three-sphere accessibility and two-sphere platforms" (to wit, "the accessibility of the broadband network to each school, the accessibility of quality resources to each class, and the accessibility of online learning space to everyone," public service platforms for education resources, and public service platforms for education management) - continuously enhancing the digital infrastructure of basic education.

In recent years, China's Ministry of Education has earnestly implemented the Strategic Action of Digitalization of Education and established the National Smart Education Platform for Primary and Secondary Schools, focusing on student learning, teacher instruction, school governance, and educational innovation to promote both equity and high-quality development. Notably, China's Smart Education Platform was awarded the 2022 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICT in Education. UNESCO noted that the platform played a critical role during the COVID-19 pandemic by facilitating large-scale distant learning.

Additionally, the initiative has trained over ten million teachers and benefited numerous students in remote and rural areas, significantly advancing educational equity and quality.

In May 2025, the Ministry's Basic Education Teaching Steering Committee released the *AI Literacy Education Guidelines for Primary and Secondary Schools (2025 edition)*, aiming to foster competency development from foundational cognition to innovative practice through spiral curriculum design. Many local governments, schools, and leading AI companies have carried out constructive explorations concerning the empowerment of basic education with AI technologies.

**The Chinese Society of Education Plays a Vital Role in Promoting Academic Exchange and Innovation**

The Chinese Society of Education is one of the earliest academic education organizations established in New China. Since its founding, it has built an academic system covering all disciplines and levels of basic education, as well as most professional fields. It holds wide academic influence and is a key force in serving and guiding the development of educational science in China and promoting the professional growth of principals and teachers in basic education.

Currently, the Society comprises 57 branches, more than 400 institutional members, and over ten thousand individual members, holding unique strengths in academic exchange and collaboration. It has successfully established a series of high-end academic flagship events.

Through years of development, the Chinese Society of Education has become the largest, most influential, and most widely supported national academic organization in the field - especially favored by frontline school principals and teachers. With extensive experience in organizing high-profile academic conferences, it is well-positioned to provide strong support for China International Conference on Basic Education (CICBE).

## Objectives and Theme

This conference aims to showcase the latest achievements in AI-driven educational transformation, share effective practices in AI-supported educational practice, explore common issues arising from AI's reshaping of education, and build broad consensus on empowering basic education with AI. The theme of the conference is: **AI Development and Educational Transformation: Challenges and Opportunities**. Five parallel sessions will be arranged on the following topics:

- Leveraging AI Technology to Promote Educational Equity

- Empowering the Transformation of Teaching and Learning with AI

- Utilizing AI to Enhance School Management

- AI-Driven Approaches to Educational Evaluation

- AI-Enhanced Professional Development for Educators

## Parallel session 1: Leveraging AI Technology to Promote Educational Equity

The widespread application of AI technology offers more options for promoting educational equity and provides favorable conditions to eliminate disparities among groups, regions, genders, and between urban and rural areas. This parallel session focuses on policy planning for sharing high-quality educational resources, ensuring equal educational opportunities, and mechanisms for protecting the educational rights of disadvantaged groups.

## Parallel session 2: Empowering the Transformation of Teaching and Learning through AI

The application of AI technology not only transforms traditional modes of teaching and learning but also reshapes the roles of teachers and students, as well as dynamics between teachers and students. This parallel session focuses on implementation pathways for AI-assisted effective instruction and practical strategies that empower personalized learning and enhance learning efficiency.

## Parallel session 3: Utilizing AI to Enhance School Management

The internet, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and big data analytics provide new conditions and tools to enhance the effectiveness of school management. This parallel session focuses on AI-driven digitalization of school administration, monitoring and optimization of teaching quality, home–school–community collaboration, and integration of social resources.

## Parallel session 4: AI-Driven Approaches to Educational Evaluation

The in-depth application of AI in educational evaluation is transforming assessment systems from single-dimensional and static models into multidimensional and dynamic ones. This parallel session explores: AI-driven approaches to evaluating and predicting student development; Pathways for the diagnosis and evaluation of regional educational quality; Safety and ethical considerations in the use of AI for educational assessment.

## Parallel session 5: AI-Enhanced Professional Development for Educators

AI technology not only frees teachers from tedious, repetitive tasks but also offers more precise and efficient support for their professional development. This parallel session focuses

on how AI empowers the enhancement of teaching capabilities, fosters teachers' career growth, streamlines teacher workforce management, and optimizes teacher training systems.

## Conference Format and Intended Participants

The conference will consist of a main plenary session and parallel sessions, combining on-site discussions with live online streaming. Approximately 400 participants are expected on site, including: principals and teachers from primary and secondary schools in various countries; representatives from international organizations and educational institutions related to basic education; international experts invited to deliver keynote speeches; and education officers from foreign embassies and consulates in China.

## Organizers:

- Chinese Society of Education

- Beijing Foreign Studies University

- Shanghai Normal University

- People's Government of Jiading District, Shanghai

## Co-organizers and Supporting Units:

**Co-organizers**

- Education Bureau of Jiading District, Shanghai

- Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press

- International Education Division, Chinese Society of Education

- Comparative Education Division, Chinese Society of Education

- Special Committee on ICT in Primary and Secondary Education, Chinese Society of Education

- Shanghai Society of Education

- Jiangsu Society of Education

- Zhejiang Society of Education

- Shanghai Academy of Educational Sciences

- Shanghai Teacher Institute

**Supporting Units**

- UNESCO International Institute for Teacher Education

- UNESCO Chair on Artificial Intelligence in Education

- Institute of International and Comparative Education, Shanghai Normal University

- College of Education, Zhejiang Normal University

- Institute of International and Comparative Education, Beijing Normal University

- Research Center for International and Comparative Education, Beijing Normal University

## Working Languages

Simultaneous interpretation in both Chinese and English will be provided.

## Funding

No conference fees will be charged. Participants are responsible for their own travel and lodging costs. The organizing and conducting units will jointly fund the forum.

## Conference Agenda

**Dates:** December 13–14, 2025 (Beijing Time, UTC+8)

**Venue:** Shanghai (Shanghai Poly Grand Theatre)

| Day 1   9:00 AM – 11:45 AM |
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| **Opening Ceremony** |

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| **Keynote Speeches** |
| 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM |
| **Parallel Sessions**<br><br>Parallel session 1: AI Technology Empowering Educational Equity<br><br>Parallel session 2: AI Technology Transforming Teaching and Learning |
| **Day 2　9:00 AM – 12:00 PM** |
| **Parallel Sessions**<br><br>Parallel session 3: AI Technology Enhancing School Management<br><br>Parallel session 4: AI Technology Supporting Educational Assessment<br><br>Parallel session 5: AI Technology Empowering Teacher Development |

## Technical Support

The conference will utilize Zoom for live sessions and the conference website will be used for registration, agenda updates, and participant interaction.

The event will also utilize a live streaming platform to broaden real-time engagement.

## Contact Information

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