

Engaged today, ready for tomorrow:

# How SchoolAI use shapes student outcomes



## The bottom line:

Students who use SchoolAI monthly or more often report stronger engagement, deeper thinking, and greater confidence in their future than students who use it rarely or have never used it. The gains span every dimension we measured, from how students feel at school to how they see themselves as learners ready for what comes next.

**87%** of students feel a sense of belonging at school

**93%** of students believe they can improve with practice

**89%** of students receive better feedback from their teachers

## Why this matters

The promise of AI in K-12 education is not simply that it can deliver content. It is that it can help realize the kind of classroom long held up as the ideal but rarely achieved at scale: one in which every student gets individualized support, every learner has a safe space to take risks, and instruction adapts in real time to what each student actually needs.

Early adoption of AI platforms often focuses on visible products. A draft. A summary. A quick answer. SchoolAI does all of this. But the more consequential question is whether sustained student use translates into something deeper. Whether students who engage with these tools regularly feel more confident as learners, think more critically, and see themselves as capable of shaping their own academic and future paths. This study set out to answer that question.

## What we did

We surveyed 1,070 students across 36 schools in April 2026. Students reported how often they used SchoolAI, and we compared outcomes between those who used it rarely or had never used it (n=524) and those who used it monthly or more often (n=546) across five domains: Student Experience, Whole Learner, Cognitive Skills, Academics, and Future-ready Skills. Tables in each finding show illustrative items from each domain. The full set of items and complete results are in the [full report](#).

We controlled for grade band to make sure the differences reflected SchoolAI use, not just developmental differences across elementary, middle, and high school students. All five outcomes showed statistically significant differences favoring more frequent users, with medium-to-large effect sizes (d = 0.58 to 0.65).

**We also accounted for teacher experience.** Of the 36 teachers in the study, 23 (64%) had been using SchoolAI for at least one year. Controlling for teacher tenure in our analyses did not change the student-usage effect across any of the five domains, suggesting that what matters most is how often students engage with the tool, not just whose classroom they happen to be in.

**Why monthly+ matters.** Just over half of students reported using SchoolAI at least monthly. The other half used it rarely or had never used it. Comparing these two groups reveals what happens when SchoolAI becomes a regular part of how a student learns rather than something encountered only occasionally.

Frequency	% of Students
Weekly or more often	28%
A few times a month	23%
Rarely	44%
Never used	5%

## What we found

### 1. Students show up to school differently

Regular SchoolAI users score markedly higher on the affective and relational conditions that deeper learning depends on: they're more excited about learning, more willing to take risks, and more likely to feel that they belong at school and that their voices matter.



**I can ask questions I'm too embarrassed to ask out loud."**

**Grade 5 student, Raymore, MO**



	Rarely/Never	Monthly+
I am excited to use SchoolAI	49%	74%
I feel safe to try new things and make mistakes	70%	89%
I feel like I belong at this school	68%	87%
I like going to school	46%	65%

## 2. They develop the dispositions of stronger learners

Regular users are more likely to persist through difficulty, organize their work, ask for help when stuck, and reflect on how they are doing. These internal capacities are what students bring to the work, and they shape what’s possible in every lesson.

“

**After you get a question wrong, it helps you by breaking it down in a way that I would understand.”**



**Grade 11 student, Stilwell, OK**

	Rarely/Never	Monthly+
Keep trying, even when things are hard	64%	86%
I’m proud of the work I do in school	69%	86%
I ask for help when I need it	68%	86%
Organizing my time and materials for school	55%	76%

## 3. They think more deeply

The biggest single-item gap in the entire study lives here. Monthly+ users were 23 percentage points more likely to ask questions about what they’re learning, and consistently more likely to look for connections, consider multiple perspectives, and solve problems in different ways. SchoolAI is functioning not as an answer machine but as a thinking partner that lowers the cost of curiosity.

“

**It does not just give you the answer. It gives you a question to see what you know about the topic.”**



**Grade 7 student, Indianapolis, IN**

	Rarely/Never	Monthly+
Ask questions about things I’m learning	65%	88%
Look for connections between different things I’m learning	63%	83%
Consider different perspectives before making a decision	66%	85%
Solve problems in different ways	68%	84%

## 4. They feel ready for what comes next

Students who use SchoolAI regularly understand their classwork better and feel more prepared for college and career. Ninety-three percent agree their abilities can grow with practice. Forward-facing outcomes like goal-setting, confidence in future success, and digital literacy were all markedly higher.

	Rarely/Never	Monthly+
Understand the work I’m doing in my classes	68%	87%
I believe my abilities can improve with practice	76%	93%
Feel confident I can succeed in what I want to do	67%	86%
Prepare for school/college and a future career	63%	81%
My teachers show me how I’m doing and give me feedback for how to improve my work	68%	89%

“

**It makes sure you have a plan for everything.”**



**Grade 10 student, Clare, MI**

## The takeaway

The evidence points in one direction. Students who use SchoolAI regularly experience school differently, show up to their learning differently, think more deeply, and feel more prepared for what comes next. These aren’t marginal differences. Across every item on every measure, monthly+ users reported double-digit gains compared to rare or never users.

**SchoolAI is not simply giving students another tool. It is helping create the conditions in which students can do their best work and feel it.**

This quick report is a shortened version of the [full report](#) that was externally reviewed and received ESSA Tier 3 Certification.

\*Footnote: This report was produced by the SchoolAI research team (May 2026). Claude (Anthropic) assisted with analysis and writing. All data handling followed the [SchoolAI Data Privacy Policy](#); no personally identifiable information was used in analyses.\*