

# A Call for Fully Open and Trustworthy Generative AI for Education

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## 001 Abstract

002 The rapid integration of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI), particularly large language  
003 models (LLMs), is significantly transforming educational practices, impacting diverse areas  
004 from intelligent tutoring to curriculum design and assessment. Current GenAI applications in  
005 education predominantly rely on closed-source, commercial models, raising critical concerns re-  
006 lated to transparency, data privacy, interpretability, and trustworthiness. In contrast, open-  
007 source models offer enhanced transparency and foster community-driven development, yet re-  
008 main underutilized in educational research and applications. This position paper argues for a  
009 **strategic shift toward fully open-source and**  
010 **trustworthy GenAI in education.** We high-  
011 light the benefits of transparency, reproducibility,  
012 equitable accessibility, and auditability pro-  
013 vided by open-source solutions, address practical  
014 considerations and challenges, and propose  
015 actionable recommendations and policy initia-  
016 tives to encourage collaborative development  
017 among educators, researchers, and policymak-  
018 ers.

## 026 1 Introduction

027 Recent years have witnessed the rapid emer-  
028 gence of powerful generative artificial intelligence  
029 (GenAI), including visual generative models (e.g.,  
030 Imagen (Saharia et al., 2022), Parti (Yu et al., 2022),  
031 DALL-E (Ramesh et al., 2021, 2022), and Sta-  
032 ble Diffusion (Rombach et al., 2022)), large lan-  
033 guage models (LLMs) such as GPT-series (OpenAI,  
034 2023), Gemini (Anil et al., 2023), LLaMA (Dubey  
035 et al., 2024), and DeepSeek (DeepSeek-AI et al.,  
036 2025), and multi-modal large language models  
037 (MLLMs) including LLaVA (Liu et al., 2023),  
038 BLIP-2 (Li et al., 2023a), and GPT-4o (Hurst et al.,  
039 2024). Among these, LLMs have demonstrated  
040 particularly impressive capabilities, including un-  
041 derstanding textual context, processing complex

042 prompts, reasoning over information, and generat-  
043 ing highly coherent, contextually relevant textual  
044 outputs (Chan and Hu, 2023; Akpan et al., 2025).

045 The rapid development of these powerful LLM  
046 models has led to widespread adoption across nu-  
047 merous domains, from healthcare (Wang et al.,  
048 2023b; Goyal et al., 2024), finance (Li et al., 2023b;  
049 de Zarzà et al., 2023), scientific discoveries (Zhang  
050 et al., 2024c; Reddy and Shojaee, 2025), up to  
051 transportation (Da et al., 2025; Zheng et al., 2023),  
052 etc. In particular, education has significantly ben-  
053 efited from the integration of GenAI technolo-  
054 gies (Wang et al., 2024; Jeon and Lee, 2023),  
055 driven by their potential to fundamentally trans-  
056 form teaching methodologies, curriculum design,  
057 student learning and educational research (Ayeni  
058 et al., 2024; Jin et al., 2024; Song et al., 2024). As  
059 educators and learners increasingly embrace GenAI  
060 models, GenAI promises transformative potential  
061 by delivering personalized, scalable, and interac-  
062 tive learning experiences, fundamentally reshaping  
063 both educational content delivery and accessibility.

064 **Status Quo.** Since 2023, academic research has  
065 highlighted the increasing prominence of GenAI  
066 applications across diverse educational scenarios.  
067 Recent literature identifies several primary use-  
068 cases across multiple dimensions. (1) **As a tu-  
069 tor/assistant:** GenAI can be used as a tutor or  
070 teaching assistant, providing tips and hints to help  
071 students solve challenging problems in lieu of  
072 the time-consuming and error-prone manually au-  
073 thored tips (Jia et al., 2024; Prihar et al., 2023;  
074 Urrutia and Araya, 2024). (2) **For curriculum  
075 development:** Using ChatGPT to prepare lesson  
076 plans in primary school courses is proved to be  
077 effective in academic achievement (Karaman and  
078 İdris Göksu, 2024). Teachers may consider com-  
079 bining ChatGPT’s plans and theirs and benefiting  
080 from both in the implementation process (Malik  
081 et al., 2024; Rizos et al., 2024). (3) **For enhanc-  
082 ing student achievement:** Empirical studies found

that GenAI use correlates with improved student achievement (Asare et al., 2023), and identified a statistically significant positive moderation effect of students’ interest on the association between ChatGPT usage and academic achievement (Yunianto et al., 2024; Urban et al., 2024). (4) **For model development:** Researchers have developed models (e.g. EBERT (Duan et al., 2024)) specialized in downstream education tasks, and models like this can outperform former state-of-the-art baselines such as MathBERT (Shen et al., 2021) or GPT-3 (Brown et al., 2020) on accuracy metrics (Xu et al., 2024; Zhang et al., 2024a). (5) **Evaluation of GenAI ability:** Recent research explores methodologies aimed at fostering a synergistic relationship between GenAI and human intelligence, encouraging the students’ development of robust problem-solving strategies while harnessing the computational capabilities of AI (Getenet, 2024; Rane, 2023; Urhan et al., 2024).

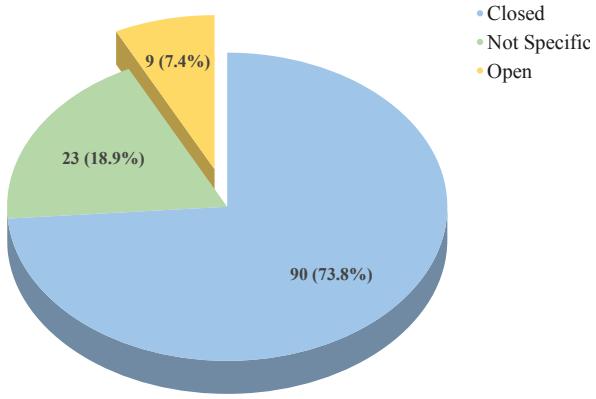


Figure 1: Open vs. Closed-Source LLMs in Education

**Motivation.** Despite these advancements, critical limitations remain prevalent in the current GenAI-for-education landscape. Primarily, the sector is heavily dominated by proprietary (closed-source) models such as ChatGPT, developed and controlled by large commercial entities. Although commercial models benefit from centralized resources, rapid iterative cycles, and widespread market penetration, they inherently lack transparency and openness (Liesenfeld et al., 2023; Aljanabi et al., 2023). This opacity introduces significant challenges regarding model *interpretability*, *data privacy*, *equitable accessibility*, intellectual property rights, and accountability in educational contexts (Kohnke and Zaugg, 2025). In contrast, open-source GenAI models—such as the LLaMA series and the recently emerged DeepSeek-R1 (DeepSeek-AI et al., 2025)—provide greater transparency, re-

producibility, and community-driven innovation, democratizing access to advanced educational AI tools. Indeed, recent breakthroughs such as DeepSeek-R1 illustrate that open-source alternatives can now match or exceed the performance and capabilities of commercial models (DeepSeek-AI et al., 2025). However, our comprehensive review of recent educational GenAI literature (detailed in Sec. 2) reveals that, in the experimental studies, approximately 73.8% of closed source compared to only 7.4% employing open-source in education field(See Figure 1). Furthermore, substantially fewer research initiatives have pursued the development of specialized, education-centric open-source GenAI models, with even fewer openly releasing their models, code-bases, or data, highlighting a critical gap and missed opportunity within the educational research community (Zhao et al., 2024).

**Our Position.** In this position paper, we advocate that future generative AI models and platforms for education should focus more on fully open-source and trustworthy resources. We argue that adopting fully open-source GenAI will enhance transparency, encourage equitable access, and significantly improve accountability, addressing many existing challenges faced by proprietary solutions. Open-source GenAI fosters extensive collaboration, accelerating innovation, community engagement, reproducibility, and rigorous auditing—critical components for achieving trustworthiness in educational settings. In the following sections, we first provide a comprehensive review of prior works relevant to GenAI for education in Sec. 2, and present our position that open-source GenAI platform for education is promising in Sec. 3, then present our initial explorations of such an open source platform in Sec. 4. Finally, we conclude with actionable recommendations and policy proposals in Sec. 5, aiming to catalyze a shift toward open and trustworthy GenAI in education.

## 2 A Review of Prior Works

**GenAI for Education.** We conducted a systematic and comprehensive review of recent literature on GenAI and LLMs in educational contexts, following a structured methodology adapted from established guidelines outlined by Chandler et al. (Chandler et al., 2019). Our review encompasses a total of 210 peer-reviewed articles published in English from 2023 to May 2025, comprising 54 review articles and 122 experimental studies. These articles

were identified using targeted keyword searches (i.e., “LLM in education” and “GenAI education”), followed by rigorous screening and duplicate removal.

Our analysis indicates that, among the 122 experimental studies, only nine explicitly utilize fully open-source models (Jia et al., 2024; Duan et al., 2024; Zhang et al., 2024a,b; Anh and Hung, 2024; Dehbozorgi et al., 2024; Latif et al., 2024; Morris et al., 2024; Nakamoto et al., 2023) (see Figure 1). The predominance of closed-source, commercial GenAI models underscores a significant reliance on proprietary technologies such as ChatGPT, Gemini, and DeepSeek (DeepSeek-AI et al., 2025), which are predominantly developed in technologically advanced nations including the United States, the United Kingdom, and China (see Figure 2). This geographic concentration of GenAI research and development creates barriers for researchers and educators from lower- and middle-income countries, who often face limited access to costly commercial models and proprietary resources. Consequently, such disparities exacerbate global inequities in educational innovation and access to advanced educational technologies.

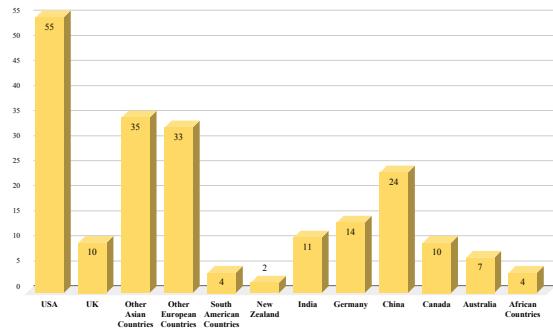


Figure 2: Geographical locations of published papers

**Open-Source vs. Closed-Source LLMs.** Existing LLMs can be categorized based on their openness into three primary types (see Figure 3): (1) **Closed-source (proprietary)** models, which are developed by commercial entities and restrict public access to their architectures, training data, and internal parameters; (2) **Open-weight** models, where trained model parameters (weights) are publicly available but the training code or data remains inaccessible; (3) **Fully open-source** models, characterized by publicly accessible architectures, training scripts, datasets, and model parameters; and (4) **Open-development** models whose contributable process is also shared.

Closed-source models, exemplified by GPT-4

(Hurst et al., 2024) and Gemini (Reid et al., 2024), offer advanced capabilities and rapid development cycles facilitated by significant commercial resources. However, their proprietary nature inherently restricts transparency, limits interpretability, and complicates customization for specialized educational needs. These “black-box” limitations pose substantial challenges for educational stakeholders in terms of ethical accountability, data privacy, fairness, and equity.

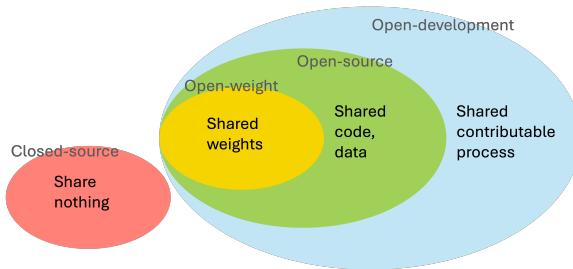


Figure 3: Definition of Open-Sourceness

Furthermore, the reliance on closed-source GenAI introduces significant economic and operational barriers for educational institutions in resource-constrained regions, restricting their ability to fully harness the benefits of advanced AI tools. Proprietary licensing and costly access fees often exclude educators in developing nations, perpetuating educational disparities. Moreover, the lack of transparency inherent in closed-source models complicates thorough assessments of model reliability, bias, and fairness, critical factors in educational settings.

Given these challenges, a strategic pivot toward fully open-source GenAI models is necessary to democratize access, foster transparency, and enable rigorous community-driven improvements. We posit that transitioning to open-source frameworks is not only ethically prudent but also essential for equitable and sustainable educational innovation globally. In the subsequent section, we articulate our detailed position advocating for a fully open-source and trustworthy GenAI approach to education, outlining practical pathways and addressing anticipated challenges.

### 3 Position

As discussed in Sec. 1, the prevailing dominance of closed-source, proprietary GenAI models significantly limits transparency, equity, and accountability in educational applications. To this end, we propose a fundamental shift towards the development and adoption of fully open-source GenAI

252 models explicitly tailored for educational purposes.

### 253 3.1 Why Focus on Open-Source GenAI for 254 Education?

255 We argue for a strategic emphasis on open-source  
256 GenAI based on four critical dimensions:

257 **Reproducibility (Data, Model, and Training).**  
258 Reproducibility is essential for advancing scientific  
259 knowledge and validating educational methodologies.  
260 Open-source GenAI enables researchers and  
261 educators worldwide to reproduce experiments, verify  
262 results, and build upon prior work effectively.  
263 With unrestricted access to data, training scripts,  
264 and model checkpoints, the educational community  
265 can rigorously assess model robustness and performance  
266 across diverse learning contexts, thus promoting  
267 consistency and reliability in educational  
268 AI deployments (Fedele et al., 2024).

269 **Accessibility (Economic Equity and Equitable  
270 Resource Distribution).** The economic disparities  
271 between developed and developing regions often  
272 restrict equitable access to proprietary AI technologies,  
273 exacerbating existing educational inequalities  
274 (Bulathwela et al., 2024). Fully open-source  
275 models mitigate these financial barriers by eliminating  
276 licensing fees and enabling cost-effective  
277 implementation, thereby ensuring wider, equitable  
278 participation. Particularly for rural and economically  
279 disadvantaged areas, open-source solutions  
280 can facilitate significant improvements in educational  
281 quality and accessibility, leveling the playing  
282 field for underrepresented communities.

283 **Transparency and Interpretability.** Educational  
284 settings require a high degree of transparency  
285 and interpretability, ensuring that AI-driven educational  
286 tools are ethically aligned, unbiased, and  
287 comprehensible (Peñalvo et al., 2024). Unlike  
288 closed-source solutions that operate as opaque  
289 “black boxes”, open-source GenAI models  
290 provide transparent insights into their architecture and  
291 decision-making processes (Radanliev, 2025). This  
292 transparency enables educators, learners, and stakeholders  
293 to better understand and address potential  
294 biases, promoting fairness and enhancing the ethical  
295 deployment of AI in education.

296 **Trustworthiness (Safety, Security, and Privacy).** Trust is fundamental in educational contexts, requiring AI systems to be safe, secure, and respectful of privacy (Bourg et al., 2024). Open-source models offer distinct advantages in terms of security and privacy by allowing comprehensive audits and community-driven security enhancements

(Bildirici et al., 2024). Stakeholders can collaboratively identify vulnerabilities, promptly rectify security issues, and enforce rigorous privacy protections. Consequently, open-source GenAI fosters a more secure and trusted educational environment, safeguarding students’ data and ensuring ethical AI use.

Therefore, embracing fully open-source GenAI models for education not only addresses critical limitations posed by proprietary systems but also fosters an equitable, transparent, and trustworthy educational landscape. The subsequent sections detail practical considerations, potential challenges, and actionable recommendations to realize this strategic shift.

### 3.2 Preparedness for Open-Source GenAI Platforms for Education

In this subsection, we evaluate the feasibility and infrastructure readiness for developing an open-source GenAI platform powered by LLMs specifically for educational purposes.

**Existing Open-Source LLMs.** Prominent open-source LLMs, including the Meta LLaMA series (e.g., LLaMA 3 (Dubey et al., 2024)), InternVL (Chen et al., 2024c,b), and Mistral (Jiang et al., 2023), demonstrate maturity, adaptability, and inherent openness required for domain-specific fine-tuning which is difficult with closed-source alternatives. These open-source models offer diverse architectures (e.g., sparse Mixture-of-Experts) and various parameter sizes (e.g., 8B to 70B), and their transparency and flexibility are crucial for research, development, and customization, especially for domain-specific fine-tuning in areas like education.

**Educational Dataset Availability.** Recently, researchers have made efforts in significantly expanding educational datasets across various learning domains, thus providing abundant data for fine-tuning open-source LLMs to enhance their efficacy in educational applications. Taking mathematics as a specific example, relevant teaching data may include various specialized dialogue datasets, such as real-world teacher-student interactions (e.g., Multi-turn Classroom Dialogue Dataset (Chen et al., 2024a)), real-world student interactions with an LLM-powered tutoring chat-bot (e.g., StudyChat Dataset (McNichols and Lan, 2025)), and tutoring conversations annotated or simulated by LLMs (e.g., MathDial Dataset (Macina et al., 2023) and Education Dialogue Dataset (Shani et al., 2024)).

**Cost-Effective Cloud GPU Platform.** Training

and fine-tuning large language models necessitate substantial computational resources, particularly high-end Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) with significant memory. While traditional cloud service providers such as AWS, Google Cloud, or Azure often entail considerable expense, several cost-effective GPU cloud platforms currently offer competitive rates for rental services, making previously unattainable projects financially viable for smaller teams and academic researchers with limited resources.

**Application Deployment Infrastructure.** The deployment and operationalization of GenAI educational tools are now supported by a wide range of robust platforms such as Vercel, Render, and Netlify. These services facilitate seamless backend integration, rapid prototyping, and scalable deployment of interactive learning systems, enabling educators and developers to bring AI-powered tools directly to classrooms and learners.

**School and Societal Preparedness.** We also assess the preparedness of educational stakeholders (Wang et al., 2023a) and the broader societal context, encompassing ethical considerations, data privacy, and public perception. While initial perceptions of AI in education among teachers and the public may have been characterized by apprehension and a focus on risks such as cheating or declined creativity (Nazaretsky et al., 2022), recent trends indicate a growing recognition of AI’s positive potential, and a notable shift towards greater awareness, acceptance, and proactive integration of AI technologies within educational settings (Kim and Kwon, 2023). Many forward-thinking schools move beyond initial hesitation to actively explore and implement AI application to education and integrating tools into their teaching practice (Xing et al., 2025). Although GenAI has brought challenges, a vast majority of students report using AI technologies in their academic activities (Vieriu and Petrea, 2025), among which virtual assistants and AI-based educational platforms are particularly popular. Additionally, despite concerns about data collection and misinformation (Yu et al., 2024), nowadays parents generally exhibit cautious optimism regarding the integration of AI in schools. They acknowledge GenAI’s potential benefits in education and remain optimistic about using GenAI in academic assistance and research.

Taken together, these developments affirm the technical and institutional feasibility of building open-source GenAI platforms for education. This

preparedness paves the way for scalable, equitable, and trustworthy AI integration in education, reinforcing the urgency and viability of the open-source agenda advanced in this paper.

### 3.3 Roadmap to Implementing a Fully Open-Source GenAI Platform

Realizing a fully open-source GenAI platform for education requires coordinated interdisciplinary action. This section outlines practical steps and roles for education researchers, computer scientists, and institutional stakeholders to co-develop a trustworthy, scalable, and pedagogically sound AI system.

**Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Joint Development.** Effective deployment begins with building sustained partnerships between technical and educational communities. We advocate for cross-disciplinary groups comprising computer scientists, AI engineers, education researchers, and practicing educators. These teams should engage in joint model design, dataset curation, iterative testing, and pedagogical alignment. Formal structures—such as collaborative research grants, co-development labs, and recurring workshops—can institutionalize this collaboration and ensure ongoing feedback exchange (Lan and Zhou, 2025).

**Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders.** *Education researchers* are responsible for defining pedagogical use cases, identifying key learning objectives, and collecting representative classroom data. Their work includes annotating instructional dialogues, modeling student misconceptions, and empirically evaluating system efficacy through classroom trials (Lan and Zhou, 2025). *Computer scientists and engineers* will lead open-source LLM development, fine-tuning, and deployment (Varghese and Ramasamy, 2024). Their responsibilities include selecting appropriate architectures, implementing scalable training and serving pipelines, and ensuring system robustness, efficiency, and privacy compliance (Varghese and Ramasamy, 2024). Together, they must co-design interfaces and feedback mechanisms to support teacher-facing and learner-facing applications (Nyaaba et al., 2024).

**Technical Infrastructure.** The platform must be supported by robust AI infrastructure (Varghese and Ramasamy, 2024). Training should be distributed across open-weight models (e.g., LLaMA, Mistral, DeepSeek-R1), leveraging cost-effective GPU resources and academic compute clusters. Model serving must include modular deployment pipelines, enabling localized adaptation, multilin-

457 gual support, and continuous monitoring. Tooling  
458 for model versioning, reproducibility, and bias au-  
459 diting should be integrated from the outset.

460 **Deployment and Maintenance.** Beyond devel-  
461 opment, serving the model to educators and stu-  
462 dents requires intuitive interfaces and accessible  
463 deployment solutions (Nyaaba et al., 2024; Tang  
464 et al., 2025). Cloud-based backends (e.g., Ren-  
465 der, HuggingFace Spaces) should be leveraged to  
466 provide browser-based, low-latency access. Open  
467 APIs must be maintained to support plug-and-play  
468 integration with existing learning management sys-  
469 tems and teacher platforms. Continuous updates,  
470 community documentation, and open governance  
471 are essential for sustainability.

472 Building a fully open-source GenAI platform for  
473 education is technically feasible and institutionally  
474 necessary, but requires deliberate, collaborative,  
475 and inclusive development. This roadmap calls  
476 on both the machine learning and education com-  
477 munities to jointly invest in shared infrastructure,  
478 open standards, and empirical best practices to en-  
479 sure that the future of educational AI is transparent,  
480 equitable, and aligned with public interest.

### 481 3.4 Key Considerations for Developing a 482 GenAI Platform

483 In designing and deploying a GenAI platform for  
484 education, several foundational principles must  
485 guide development. These considerations not only  
486 ensure technical and pedagogical soundness but  
487 also underscore why open-source models are bet-  
488 ter suited for building responsible, equitable, and  
489 sustainable AI systems in education.

490 **Reproducibility.** Reproducibility is a corner-  
491 stone of academic integrity and scientific progress.  
492 In education, where empirical validation is essen-  
493 tial, researchers must be able to replicate results,  
494 scrutinize model behavior, and extend prior work  
495 with confidence. Open-source LLMs provide ac-  
496 cess to training code, datasets, and model check-  
497 points, enabling rigorous peer review and longitudi-  
498 nal evaluation. By contrast, closed-source models  
499 obstruct this process, limiting transparency and  
500 hindering the accumulation of shared knowledge  
501 across institutions and contexts (Zhao et al., 2024).

502 **Accessibility.** Widening access to advanced  
503 GenAI tools is imperative for reducing educational  
504 inequality. Open-source models typically elimi-  
505 nate licensing fees and reduce the financial burden  
506 on under-resourced institutions and educators. In  
507 addition, open platforms should be paired with user-

508 friendly interfaces, multilingual capabilities, and  
509 clear documentation to minimize technical barri-  
510 ers, facilitating adoption in diverse settings like  
511 underserved or rural communities.

512 **Transparency.** Transparent and interpretable  
513 AI is critical for ensuring ethical, fair, and in-  
514 clusive educational outcomes. Unlike proprietary  
515 models, which obscure internal mechanisms, open-  
516 source systems allow inspection of training and  
517 decision-making processes. This is especially im-  
518 portant in high-stakes environments like education,  
519 where algorithmic opacity can perpetuate biases  
520 or undermine trust. Open systems empower multi-  
521 disciplinary oversight—engaging ethicists, educa-  
522 tors, and policy makers in assessing fairness, inter-  
523 pretability, and accountability across student pop-  
524 ulations (Ratner et al., 2025; Deric et al., 2025;  
525 Quince et al., 2024; Zlotnikova et al., 2025).

526 **Trustworthiness.** Establishing trust is foun-  
527 dational when integrating GenAI into education  
528 (Joubin, 2024; Henderson et al., 2025). Trust-  
529 worthiness in this context encompasses a multi-  
530 dimensional evaluation that includes factual accu-  
531 racy, safety against adversarial manipulation, ro-  
532 bustness to unseen conditions, privacy preserva-  
533 tion, and fairness across diverse user groups (Xing  
534 et al., 2024). These dimensions, outlined in the  
535 AutoTrust benchmark, are equally critical in class-  
536 rooms, where AI should ensure safe, ethical, and  
537 equitable interactions.

538 *Factuality and Uncertainty Awareness.* Educa-  
539 tional GenAI must avoid hallucinations or mislead-  
540 ing content (Elsayed, 2024; Chiang, 2024). Models  
541 should provide accurate answers and signal uncer-  
542 tainty when relevant, to prevent overconfident mis-  
543 information—a critical requirement in high-stakes  
544 learning contexts. Open-source frameworks offer  
545 the necessary transparency to audit and refine these  
546 behaviors systematically.

547 *Safety and Adversarial Robustness.* GenAI plat-  
548 forms for education are susceptible to misuse via  
549 adversarial prompts inducing inappropriate or off-  
550 topic responses. Drawing from adversarial testing  
551 in vision-language models (VLMs) for autonomous  
552 systems (Xing et al., 2024), developers of educa-  
553 tional GenAI must implement safeguards against  
554 both benign errors and malicious manipulations.  
555 Open-source development facilitates community-  
556 driven discovery and mitigation of such vulnerabil-  
557 ities, a process hindered in proprietary systems.

558 *Privacy Preservation.* Systems interacting with  
559 sensitive student data (e.g., learning disabilities,

560 behavioral feedback) must protect privacy and prevent leakage. The AutoTrust evaluation shows that  
561 even advanced models can be coaxed into revealing  
562 private details unless explicitly trained to resist such prompts. Open-source architectures allow  
563 custom privacy controls and transparency audits—essential for compliance with data protection  
564 regulations like FERPA (Alshugran and Kloub,  
565 2025; Farmer et al., 2024).

566 *Fairness and Bias Mitigation.* AI must treat students equitably across demographic lines (Rouab-  
567 hia, 2025). Educational AI must be validated to ensure consistent performance across student pop-  
568 ulations—regardless of language, socioeconomic status, or learning style. Open models permit tar-  
569 geted bias analysis and correction, allowing stakeholders to collaboratively enforce fairness.

570 In summary, trustworthiness in educational GenAI is a composite of verifiability, security, resilience, and ethics. Open-source models offer a powerful substrate for achieving these goals, as they invite scrutiny, enable adaptation, and promote accountability—attributes obscured in proprietary solutions. Adopting a trustworthiness-first design philosophy safeguards learners and enhances GenAI’s reliability and social value.

### 571 **3.5 Incorporating Feedback to Make 572 GenAI-Education Platform Better**

573 To effectively integrate a GenAI platform in education, we propose iterative improvements based  
574 on educator and practitioner feedback, ensuring the platform adapts to individual needs and continuously  
575 benefits educators (McTear, 2022).

576 The platform generates diverse professional development training materials for instructors and users, including detailed documentation, training  
577 videos, user guides, booklets, and an accessible support website (Pelton and Pelton, 2023). Before  
578 full implementation, education experts pilot-test it to provide structured feedback on content accuracy,  
579 pedagogical effectiveness, and user experience, guiding adjustments to training methods and  
580 interface design. Then, large-scale trials will expand to local partnership universities, collecting  
581 quantitative data and qualitative feedback via interviews from educators to optimize scalability and  
582 localization features. This input will guide model development, emphasizing local applicability and  
583 broader usability. Following regional validation,  
584 the system can be publicized to broader universities across the US and up to the global educa-  
585

586 tion networks. Continuous feedback collection and  
587 maintenance are crucial for enhancing practicality  
588 and addressing ethical considerations, such as di-  
589 verse cultural understanding. Local experts will  
590 establish regular review cycles, analyzing user be-  
591 havior and survey responses to iteratively improve  
592 instructional relevance and technological integra-  
593 tion.  
594

## 595 **4 Our Pilot Study**

596 Our team has made initial progress in the develop-  
597 ment of an innovative and fully open-source edu-  
598 cational GenAI platform, training and deployment  
599 of which are both transparent. It is designed to em-  
600 ploy an LLM to simulate responses from a student  
601 struggling with mathematics, thus enabling interac-  
602 tion between prospective secondary mathematics  
603 teachers (PSMTs) and simulated students. We have  
604 deployed a trial AI-powered chatbot on Render,  
605 and our basic user interface (UI) design and major  
606 features are showcased below (See Figure 4).

607 The LLMs, specifically LLaMA 3 model (Dubey  
608 et al., 2024) fine-tuned on multi-turn teaching con-  
609 versation data from different grade level mathe-  
610 matics classes, are the most essential GenAI com-  
611 ponent in our platform. Our aim is to eventually  
612 develop a chat-bot that can simulate reasonable  
613 responses to math problems or teachers’ instruc-  
614 tions, and contribute to conversations just as a mid-  
615 dle school student who is experiencing difficul-  
616 ties in mathematics and stuck in specific questions.  
617 Tasked with facilitating and address the queries  
618 and inquiries from students in need of mathematics  
619 learning help, users (i.e. PSMTs) can effectively  
620 practice their teaching skills, identify common stu-  
621 dent errors and misconceptions, and refine their  
622 pedagogical approaches in real-time.

623 While LLMs’ effective mathematics instruc-  
624 tional and tutoring ability is still questioned nowa-  
625 days (Gupta et al., 2025), by casting the GenAI  
626 in the role of a student struggling with math, we  
627 actually shift the onus of correctness and instruc-  
628 tional quality back to the human teacher, navigating  
629 its current limitations in consistently providing ac-  
630 curate feedback. Also, to address deficits of the  
631 current LLM and decrease the possibility of out-  
632 puts inconsistent with student roles, we plan an  
633 upcoming survey with 15-20 pre-service teachers  
634 and instructors, to let them participate in the fol-  
635 lowing testing process and identify cases where the  
636 GenAI model fail to simulate well.

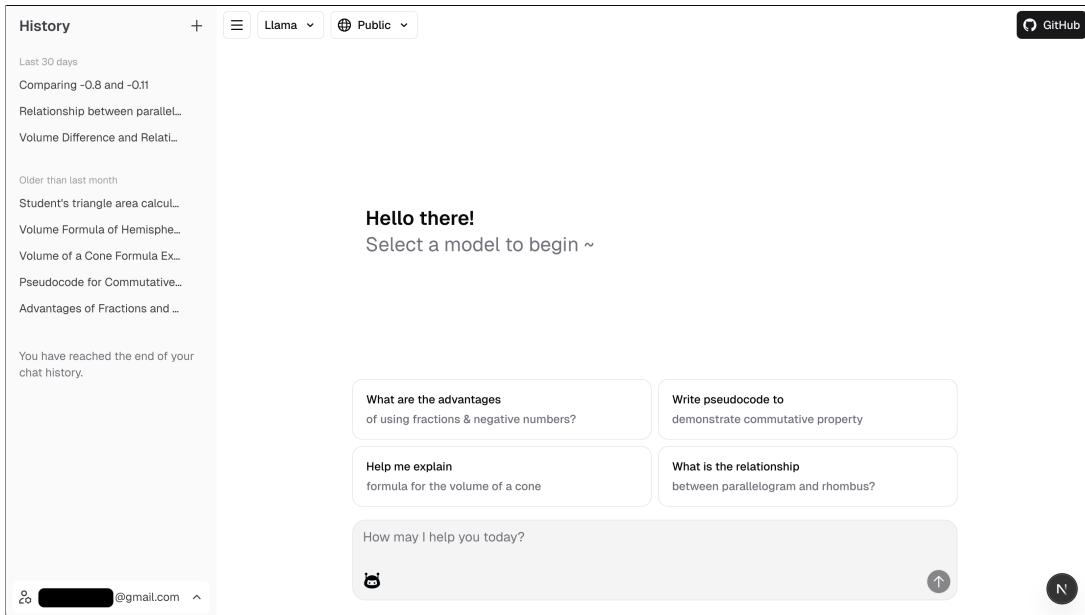


Figure 4: Our User Interface Design

what's the difference between volume of a cylinder and a cone? Is there any relationship?

A cylinder's volume is the area of its circular base times its height:  $V = \pi r^2 h$ .

A cone with the same base and height has one-third the volume:  $V = (1/3)\pi r^2 h$ .

So, the relationship is that a cone's volume is exactly one-third the volume of a cylinder with the same base and height.

can you explain how you get the previous formulas?

The cylinder's volume formula comes from stacking circles (area  $\pi r^2$ ) to a height  $h$ .

The cone's formula is harder to derive directly but can be proven with calculus (integration). Intuitively, a cone takes up one-third of the space of its corresponding cylinder. Imagine three cones filling up a cylinder perfectly.

What are the advantages of using fractions and negative numbers?

Fractions and negative numbers have several advantages:

1. Fractions allow for precise representation of ratios and proportions.
2. Negative numbers enable the representation of opposite directions, temperatures, and financial transactions.
3. They provide a more comprehensive and accurate way to model real-world phenomena, such as debt, temperatures below zero, and directions.

These concepts are essential in various fields, including mathematics, science, engineering, and finance.

if a student thinks 0.11 is bigger than 0.8, 0.6 is smaller than 0.24, what mistake does he probably make?

The student likely mistakes the decimal portion as a whole number, thus misinterpreting 0.11 as larger due to "11" appearing bigger than "8", and 0.24 as larger than 0.6 because "24" is bigger than "6". They are not considering place value.

(a) Problem 1

(b) Problem 2

Figure 5: Chat History between Mathematics Teachers and the Chat-Bot

## 5 Conclusion

We call for more open, inclusive, efficient, and trustworthy GenAI applications in education. Fully adopting open-source GenAI can enhance transparency, ensure fair access, and improve accountability—addressing many issues seen in proprietary systems. Open-source models foster collaboration, innovation, reproducibility, and rigorous peer review, all essential for credibility in education. We offer practical suggestions and policy recommendations for educators, researchers, developers, and policymakers, including joint research, co-creation, interdisciplinary events, standard data frameworks, and collaborative human-machine interaction. These strategies can help align AI advancements with effective teaching practices, sup-

porting a more inclusive and impactful educational ecosystem.

**Future Directions.** Moving forward, we aim to extend our pilot system into a broader ecosystem that supports a range of instructional roles, from AI student simulators to intelligent teaching assistants. Further work is needed to design community-driven benchmarks that evaluate GenAI models for pedagogical soundness, fairness, and robustness in diverse educational settings. To support real-world adoption, we also emphasize the importance of integrating these systems into institutional infrastructures, aligning with educational standards and privacy policies. These directions will help realize an educational AI landscape that is not only technically advanced, but also open, inclusive, and grounded in public interest.

## 6 Limitations

While this paper advocates for the development of open-source GenAI platforms in education, we still acknowledge several limitations inherent to current open-source models and their adoption, in contrast with the compelling advantages offered by current closed-source commercial models. It is not controversial that, at least at present, existing open-source models may not always match or compete with the performance and convenience of their commercial counterparts (Chen et al., 2024b). Besides the fact that the key performance indicators of open source models are close to but have not yet exceeded closed-source commercial models, the closed-source (proprietary) models offer several other benefits that contribute to their widespread adoption. (1) **Ease of Use:** Commercial models, such as those from OpenAI (Hurst et al., 2024) and Google (Reid et al., 2024), are typically provided as managed services accessible through user-friendly web interfaces or well-documented Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), lowering technical barriers for educators and enabling rapid integration without technical expertise in model deployment or infrastructure management; (2) **Service Support:** Users of closed-source models avoid the complex and resource-intensive process of pre-training or extensive fine-tuning, as commercial providers handle continuous updates, maintenance, and even custom solutions tailored to specific industry (including education) needs, allowing quick responses to emerging demands—capabilities not yet standardized in open-source communities.

The current commercial model is inevitably the mainstream choice for educational institutions due to its substantial convenience, immediate utility, complete functional chain, and reliability; while it is still undeniable that open source models have great market potential because of better performance in data privacy protection and localized customization, and they will become an indispensable market trend for future educational applications.

Our current study is also limited, focusing on secondary-level mathematics without validation in other domains. The publicly available data we use may under-represent certain curricula, classroom discourse styles, and learner demographics, probably introducing distribution shifts and fairness concerns. Also, the open-source LLMs used in our prototype still lag behind top proprietary models on math reasoning and dialogue robustness, which

affects the fidelity of student simulation. As for evaluation, our pilot is small-scale and user-study results with pre-service teachers are pending, so claims about training effectiveness and classroom impact still remain preliminary. And our evaluation primarily uses task- and dialogue-level metrics; measures for long-term learning outcomes are out of scope for this submission and will be addressed in follow-up work. Future research should empirically quantify these gaps through larger-scale evaluations to accelerate open-source advancements.

## 7 Ethical Considerations

Our proposed open-source GenAI approach prioritizes ethical deployment in education. All data used for model fine-tuning and training are sourced from publicly available educational resources or published classroom and tutoring datasets (e.g., MathEDU (Hsu et al., 2025) and MathDial (Macina et al., 2023)); no private student/teacher records or personally identifiable information are included, and we only used the data for research purposes.

Additionally, the planned surveys with pre-service math teachers to evaluate model weaknesses and student simulation efficacy have undergone and passed strict Institutional Review Board (IRB) review at our institution. Participants provide informed consent, with anonymized responses and the option to withdraw at any time, and no sensitive personal data will be collected. During pilot use, logs will be anonymized and stored under restricted access.

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