CSCI 77800 - Ethics and Computer Science - **Weekly Ethics Topic - ACADEMIC TRACKING**

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Introduction to academic tracking video.

Shifts from traditional instructional spaces to remote digital learning environments has greatly impacted the educational landscape resulting in an exponential growth of educators' and administrators' dependence on technological innovations in academic tracking software to measure student achievement and foster instructional progress.

Tracking software systems aid in the education practice of "tracking" where monitoring student progress and dividing students into classes based on their abilities, with the aim to ensure each student is on the best learning path to meet their academic needs.

Tracking software packages are marketed as viable pedagogical tools that offer time efficient repositories for accumulating, sorting and analyzing aggregated assessment data to demonstrate student performance and serve as a foundation to drive pedagogical decisions to impact academic achievement.

Educators engaged in the multi-layered complexities of instruction, faced with the pressing demands to close the learning loss gap and providing social emotional support are enticed by the bells and whistles of tracking software.

Tracking software offers …

- Monitor student academic progress.
- Analyze student assessment data.
- Identify trends in student achievement.
- Guide strategies to optimize and tailor instructional processes.
- Store student data and generate student progress reports.
- Guide academic support decisions.

Student tracking software has come under renewed scrutiny. According to a report published from the Center for Democracy and Technology, 89 percent of teachers have said that their schools will continue using student-monitoring software, up 5 percentage points from last year.

Tracking software packages installed in school-issued electronic devices have the potential to allow teachers to view and control students' screens, or use AI to scan text from student emails and cloud-based documents.

Tracking software promises: security, accessibility and reliability; however, consumers of tracking software should be aware of unadvertised pitfalls like cybersecurity breaching, programming issues and impact on students.

Educators are guardians of the budding citizens of the future. Tracking software should be vetted to protect students from concerns and threats like data breaches, implicit biases in AI algorithms, accuracy and protecting students data which hold the potential to impact the security and viability of the educational landscape.

Additional Resources: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1UBx4OqQCUPRvmDpRi0rglvmY3bjOEKVRKqBB5nEVETg/edit?usp=sharing