THE SETHI LEDGER
AI + K-12 Brief | 2026-11-09

1. Google revises plan for school access to Search and Gemini

Update: Published November 6, 2026; the article reports that Google reversed an initial announcement about tying school access to Search to AI use. Google now says Search, Gemini and Gemini Notebook will be off by default, with schools deciding what to enable; more implementation details are expected in coming months. Triangle districts said they had made no usage changes while awaiting clarification.

Why it matters: Districts using Google services should seek clear answers about controls, AI features embedded in Search, and timing before updating policies or communicating with families. A default-off setting does not itself establish that every AI feature can be disabled.

Limits: The article reports Google's stated plans and local district responses; the operational details and rollout had not yet been provided.

Published 2026-11-06. Source: https://www.govtech.com/education/k-12/north-carolina-schools-seek-clarification-on-googles-ai-policy

2. Highline technology levy leads in unofficial election returns

Published November 7, 2026; unofficial returns from November 6 showed Highline Public Schools' $48 million technology levy with 58.65% support, above the simple-majority threshold. The district said the levy would provide $12 million annually for four years for devices, classroom technology, instructional software, networks, cybersecurity and technical support. King County certification was still pending.

Why it matters: If certified, the levy would provide a defined local funding stream for recurring technology and cybersecurity needs, rather than relying only on one-time purchases. Leaders should treat the reported result as provisional until certification.

Limits: Election results were unofficial when reported; the article describes proposed levy uses, not expenditures already made.

Published 2026-11-07. Source: https://seatacblog.com/2026/11/07/highline-school-bond-reaches-63-62-support-technology-levy-also-leads-in-friday-election-returns/

3. Providence clarifies separate voice-recording retention settings for Amira tools

Published November 8, 2026; Providence's statement, dated October 29, says the Amira Tutor does not store student voice recordings, while Amira Assess recordings are retained for 48 hours for quality assurance and possible human review. Families may choose an audio-off assessment, which the district says does not provide the same information about oral reading. The article notes the district statement does not explain how these settings relate to an earlier letter saying new recordings would not be retained.

Why it matters: The distinction between products and retention settings matters when districts describe voice-data practices to families and evaluate assessment tools. Leaders should reconcile conflicting descriptions and verify what is collected, retained, accessed and deleted for each product configuration.

Limits: The article reports the district's account and identifies an unresolved inconsistency; it does not independently verify vendor data handling or assess the tool's effectiveness.

Published 2026-11-08. Source: https://sixstatesignal.com/articles/amira-tutoring-recordings-not-stored-but-screening-recordings-kept-48-hours

4. Kansas board scheduled to consider proposed instructional-technology policy

Published November 6, 2026; the Kansas State Board of Education was scheduled to meet November 9-10 to consider a proposed instructional-technology policy for public districts and nonpublic accredited schools. The state education department said Commissioner Jake Steel would present a draft addressing student technology use, including AI. The supplied report does not describe the draft's specific requirements or establish that the board adopted it.

Why it matters: The scheduled state-level action could shape expectations for districts, but leaders should wait for the draft and board action before treating it as a compliance change. The limited detail in this report makes the underlying proposal's scope and operational impact unclear.

Limits: The article was published before the scheduled meeting and reports a proposed policy, not an adopted rule; it does not provide the draft text.

Published 2026-11-06. Source: https://www.ksnt.com/news/kansas/kansas-board-of-education-set-to-vote-on-artificial-intelligence-policy-discuss-elementary-recess-policies