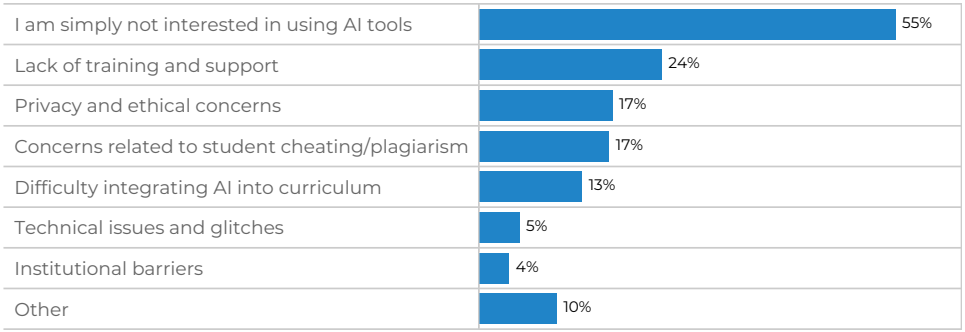
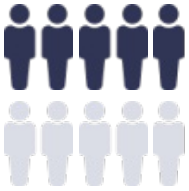
Tennessee Educator Survey 2026 Findings

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Schools: Needs and Concerns

Key Insight #1: Of teachers who did not use AI tools in the 2025-26 school year, over half reported they simply were not interested in doing so. About a quarter of teachers who didn't use AI tools lacked training or support.

What has prevented you from using AI tools in the past year?

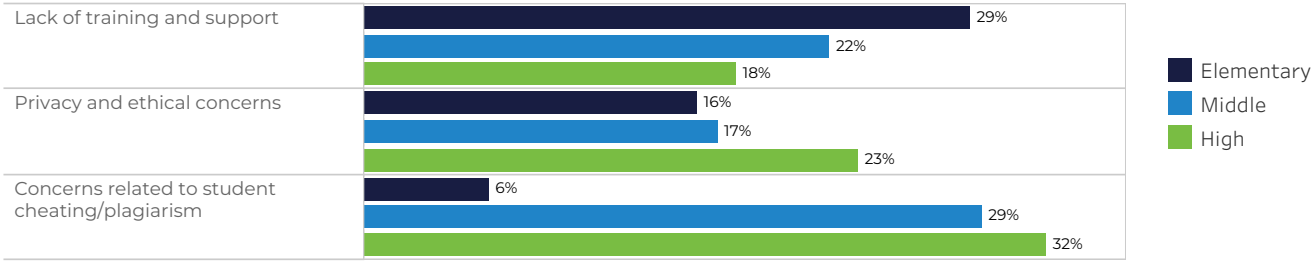




About half (52%) of teachers said they received training or professional development on the use of AI in the classroom in the 2025-26 school year.

Key Finding #2: Of teachers who did not use AI tools, elementary school teachers were more likely to say a lack of training and support prevented their use, while middle and high school teachers cited concerns about plagiarism and cheating.

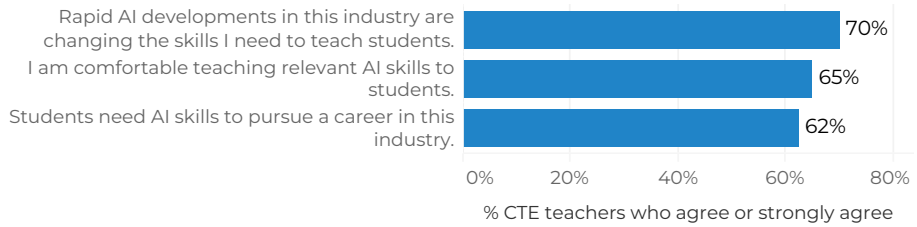
What has prevented you from using AI tools in the past year?



Key Insight #3: CTE teachers have unique needs around incorporating AI into their teaching, with most agreeing that AI is changing the skills they need to teach and the skills students need to have.

6 in 10 CTE teachers said they received training or professional development on the use of AI in the classroom in the 2025-26 school year.

Please read the following questions about AI and CTE and indicate the extent that you agree or disagree with the following statements.



About the Survey

Each year, the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) and Tennessee Education Research Alliance at Vanderbilt University (TERA) conduct the Tennessee Educator Survey (TES). Over 38,000 educators participated in the spring 2026 survey. Results are weighted to increase state-wide representativeness. For more information, please visit https://educatorsurvey.tnk12.gov/ and https://tnedresearch.org/tennessee-educator-survey/.