What We Offer

Regular online programming, tools, and resources to support participants' objectives

In-person Annual Convening for deeper community, learning, and collaboration

Individualized engagement opportunities on specific issues or across participating organizations and states for knowledge sharing and collaboration

STATES FOR THE FUTURE

Virtual Learning Community

We invite you to keep your cameras on & mind mute button

Questions & discussion in the chat are welcome

Slides will be shared out after the presentation

Recording during presentation, off for discussion

Virtual Community Discussions are a place for state and national organizations to describe their efforts to leverage data and research for improving policy and practice. The views and opinions expressed by presenters are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of States for the Future or any participating organization.

STATES FOR THE FUTURE

Today's Speaker:

Baron Rodriguez

Executive Director

STATES FOR THE FUTURE

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Data Integration Support Center
WestEd

In 2022, WestEd established the Data Integration Support Center (DISC) to address these gaps. DISC offers public agencies comprehensive and tailored assistance focused on planning and user-centered design, policy, privacy, and legal support to help agencies integrate data across sectors, including early childhood, social services, and the workforce.

Scope & Background

- Philanthropically funded

- Focused on **Integrated Data Systems** in public agencies

- Limited scope:

  - Artificial Intelligence

  - Planning and User-Center Designed

  - Legislative Analysis

  - External Legal Supports

  - System Privacy

  - System Security

Harvard Business Review: "Keep the 3P's at the forefront of AI Transformation"

- **Problem-centric – What strategic objectives are you looking to solve?**

  - Keep in mind use of automations within AI may exacerbate an already existing problem with data quality

- **People First – Prioritize Humans over AI**

  - Understand what AI means for staff, parents, and students

  - Communicate openly

  - Ensure humans review accuracy of results

- **Principle-Driven – Ethics, Fairness, Bias, Privacy, & Transparency**

  - These principles should be articulated in your guidelines to staff, parents, and students with practical steps your organization will take to ensure alignment to those principles

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The AI Opportunity

- Enhance knowledge management

- Streamline operations

- Reveal new insights from integrated data

- Technology: Code development

- Workforce: NH adjudication assistant

- IN Workforce Development: "Pivot" recommendation engine

When NOT to Rely on AI

✓Where human relationships matter (counseling, crisis response)

✓With highly sensitive data sets (without a thorough risk assessment)

✓When state or federal regulations prohibit it

State Laws Restricting Automated Decision-Making via AI / ML

Enacted legislation & pending proposals · As of early 2026 · Hover or tap a state for details

Legend:
- 3 Comprehensive AI/ADM Laws
- 18 Privacy Laws w/ ADM Provisions
- 2 Pending / Proposed
- No enacted provisions

⚠ **Federal Context:** A Dec 2025 executive order and proposed congressional 10-year moratorium may preempt some of these state laws. The regulatory landscape is shifting rapidly.
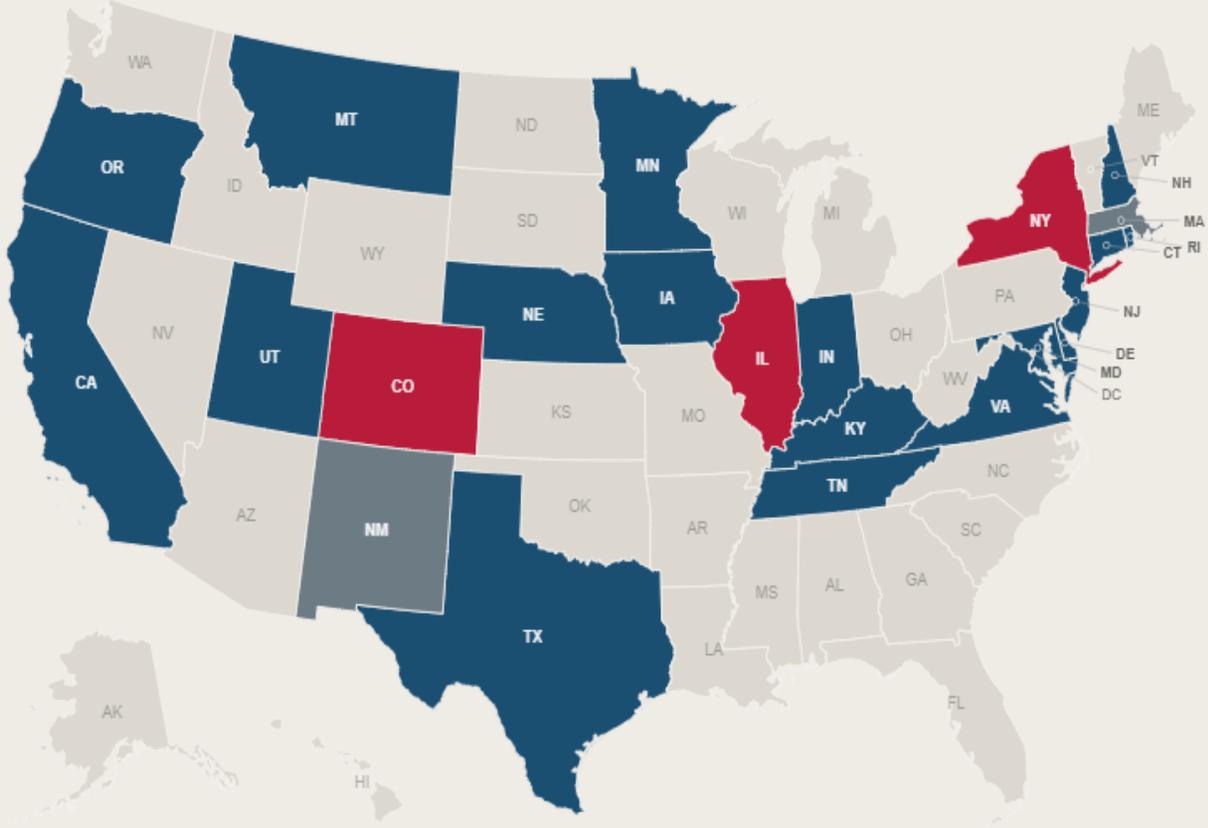
■ **Comprehensive AI/ADM laws** specifically target algorithmic discrimination, require bias audits, or mandate risk assessments.

■ **Privacy laws w/ ADM provisions** grant opt-out rights for automated profiling that produces legal or significant effects.

■ **Pending bills** under active legislative consideration, modeled after the Colorado AI Act.

When NOT to Rely on AI

✓**High-stakes decisions (job placement, graduation, public benefit determinations)**

✓**Tasks requiring legal accountability (UI determinations, Title IX)**

✓**Where bias impact is severe (discipline, corrections/justice data, special education referrals)**

✓**When transparency to the public is impossible**

Context Setting: Why do state agencies struggle with gen AI initiatives?

NASCIO Survey of State Agencies

Peer state agency focus areas with gen AI

What States Have Implemented for GenAI
respondents allowed to make multiple selections

88% Responsible use, flexible guardrails, security, ethics

84% Inventory and documenting uses in agencies and applications

82% Creation of advisory committees and task forces

Enterprise policies and procedures on development and use	76%
Adopted a governance framework	65%
Data governance: data sources, data quality, bias, data privacy	53%
Procurement terms and contract provisions	41%
Requiring disclosure by software providers	41%
Transparency and accountability	41%
Impact on operations and workforce	27%

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Governance Essentials

"Without strong governance, don't bother with generative AI. It will get you to a wrong answer faster."

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Why do you need clear governance for AI adoption?

- Ad hoc tool creation causes security risks

- Unclear authority causing delays when issues arise

- Redundancies

- **Decision rights:** who approves vendors, pilots, policies, spending?

- **Oversight:** who monitors ongoing use, what triggers escalation?

- **Transparency:** How is AI use communicated both internally and externally?
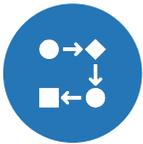
Agentic AI: Hype versus Reality

The truth regarding the complexities you will face when implementing a "simplifying" solution.

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Understanding the era of Gen AI

Contextualizing Gen AI in the broader AI landscape.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

A field of computer science that focuses on building systems to imitate human behavior. Not all AI systems have learning behavior; many systems operate on preset rules, such as customer service chatbots.

Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL)

An approach to implementing AI, whereby the AI system is instructed to search for patterns in a data set and then make predictions based on that set. In this way, the system "learns" to provide accurate content over time (think of Google's search recommendations). DL is a subset of ML algorithms that leverages artificial neural networks to develop relationships among the data.

Generative AI (Gen AI)

A form of ML whereby, in response to prompts, a Gen AI platform can generate new outputs based on the data it has been trained on. Depending on its foundational model, a Gen AI platform will provide different modalities and thereby use case applications.

Artificial Intelligence

Machine Learning

Deep Learning

Generative AI

Source: Info-Tech Research Group 2024
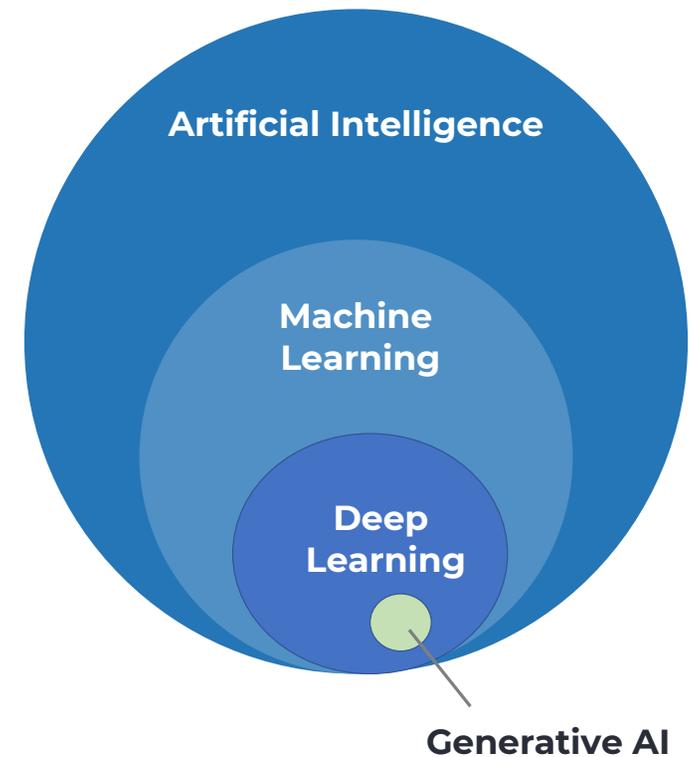
Definition:

AI Agent vs. Chatbot

Chatbots respond to single queries, whereas an AI Agent uses an "orchestrator" that plans tasks, uses external tools and sequences steps to accomplish goals.

AI Agent Components (Dependent on Complexity)

- **Large Language Model**

- **Orchestrator**

- **External applications (email, calendars, financial systems)**

- **API's – Define actions available to agent**

- **Model Context Protocol – coordination to discover & connect to external tools (via API)**

- **Memory – Retain context across sessions tools, and platforms**

- **Authentication – agents granted temporary credentials to log in to external services**

- **Persistent agent profile- user linked identity across sessions for personalization and continuity**

AI Agent Deployment Types

- **Infrastructure Agents**

- **Workplace Agents**

- **Personal Agents**

Example Risks

- **Persistence of user tone, information, and requests across systems**

- **Information stored in multiple locations, not necessarily authorized to be "stored"**

- **Increases risk footprint as consent, purpose, data minimization, and even cross border issues may not be transparent**

How DISC can help your agency with gen AI implementation

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DISC AI Services

IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES
Provided by non-profit to public agencies implementing generative AI

GENERATIVE AI LEVEL-SETTING TRAINING
Basics of genAI, how it differs from ML/other AI, overview of opportunities, risks, and challenges

REGULATORY LANDSCAPE REVIEW
Federal, state, and local laws around use of genAI technology, privacy/security considerations

RESPONSIBLE/ETHICAL USE OF AI POLICY REVIEW, DEVELOPMENT, AND TRAINING

AI USE CASE DEVELOPMENT ONSITE ENGAGEMENT

AI READINESS ASSESSMENT
Note: Steps 2 through 4 must be completed prior to assessment

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WestEd is a nonpartisan, nonprofit agency that conducts and applies research, develops evidence-based solutions, and provides services and resources in the realms of education, human development, and related fields, with the end goal of improving outcomes and ensuring equity for individuals from infancy through adulthood. For more information, visit WestEd.org.

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A Data to Policy Network

End of Recording

Next Up

A Virtual Roundtable Discussion on Modernizing the Federal Statistical System:
Insights from State and Local Leaders

Wednesday, March 11
12:00 p.m. ET /
9:00 a.m. PT

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VIRTUAL COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

Bipartisan Policy Center