Children today are growing up with artificial intelligence. By the time they reach kindergarten, they’ve likely been conversing with Alexa for years. It’s vital that students become AI literate as our society begins to wrestle with the significant social and ethical challenges AI technology is raising. Equity considerations also argue for universal AI education, so that AI-related career opportunities are accessible to all students, and so that the population of AI developers is as diverse as society itself.

The AI4K12 Initiative, a joint project of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) and the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA), with funding from the National Science Foundation, is developing national guidelines for what every K-12 student should know about AI, and what they should be able to do. The initiative has released a list of “Five Big Ideas in Artificial Intelligence” that will serve as the organizing framework for the guidelines. New tools and new curricula, developed by multiple groups around the world, are making AI concepts accessible even to very young students. This talk will survey the current state of AI education in K-12 and discuss what computing professionals can do to help advance this cause.

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