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‘THE CHEATING IS OFF THE CHARTS’

Rise of AI tools forces schools to reconsider what counts as cheating



Casey Cuny, an English teacher at Valencia High School, works on his computer as he prepares for class in Santa Clarita, Calif., on Aug. 27. PHOTOS BY JAE C. HONG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

By Jocelyn Gecker
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The book report is now a thing of the past. Take-home tests and essays are becoming obsolete.

Student use of artificial intelligence has become so prevalent, high school and college educators say, that to assign writing outside of the classroom is like asking students to cheat.

“The cheating is off the charts. It’s the worst I’ve seen in my entire career,” says Casey Cuny, who has taught English for 23 years. Educators are no longer wondering if students will outsource schoolwork to AI chatbots. “Anything you send home, you have to assume is being AI’ed.”

The question now is how schools can adapt, because many of the teaching and assessment tools that have been used for generations are no longer effective. As AI technology rapidly improves and becomes more entwined with daily life, it is transforming how students learn and study and how teachers teach, and it’s creating new confusion over what constitutes academic dishonesty.

“We have to ask ourselves, what is cheating?” says Cuny, a 2024 recipient of California’s Teacher of the Year award. “Because I think the lines are getting blurred.”

Cuny’s students at Valencia High



Timothy Rimke reads during Casey Cuny’s English class at Valencia High School in Santa Clarita, Calif., on Aug. 27.

School in southern California now do most writing in class. He monitors student laptop screens from his desktop, using software that lets him “lock down” their screens or block access to certain sites. He’s also integrating AI into his lessons and teaching students how to use AI as a study aid “to get kids learning with AI instead of cheating with AI.”

In rural Oregon, high school teacher Kelly Gibson has made a similar shift to in-class writing. She is also incorpo-

rating more verbal assessments to have students talk through their understanding of assigned reading.

“I used to give a writing prompt and say, ‘In two weeks, I want a five-paragraph essay,’” says Gibson. “These days, I can’t do that. That’s almost begging teenagers to cheat.”

Take, for example, a once typical high school English assignment: Write an

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PENNSYLVANIA

Taxpayers foot \$6M bill for arson repairs to gov mansion

Officials are shielding information about nearly a quarter of those expenses

By Angela Coulombis
SPOTLIGHT PA

HARRISBURG — The Shapiro administration has spent more than \$6 million in public dollars over the past four months to fix extensive damage to the governor’s stately residence following a brazen, middle-of-the-night arson attack.

Despite using taxpayer money, state officials are shielding information about nearly a quarter of those expenses — including who was paid and exactly what the money was spent on.

The secrecy adds another layer of mystery to feverish efforts to restore multiple fire-damaged rooms inside the state-owned, 29,000-square-foot residence overlooking the Susquehanna River, as well as replace furniture and other household items destroyed by smoke and flames April 13.

Private donors have separately contributed to a fund managed by a Harrisburg-based nonprofit to help restore the mansion. So far, neither the organization nor the administration has disclosed the donors’ identities or the amount they contributed to the privately run fund, nor provided a general description of

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Thinking about getting an EV? Why you need to move by Sept. 30

By Chloe Beaver
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

It’s a buyer’s market for anyone looking to charge up a used electric vehicle.

Amid record-high inventory, more than half of used EVs are listed under \$30,000, according to recent data from Recurrent.

New electric car sales are spiking ahead of the expected death of the EV tax credit on Sept. 30, as buyers front-load EV purchases before tax incentives come to an end. After that, policy will shift its focus to incentivizing gas-powered vehicles, offering loan interest deductions up to \$10,000 on qualifying new purchases.

The recent surge in car sales “are unquestionably inflated by shoppers accelerating their electric vehicle purchases to take

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SPORTS BETTING

Wagers on touchdowns, strikeouts and even penalties: States eye limits on prop bets

By Kevin Hardy
STATELINE.ORG

As a bankruptcy attorney, New Jersey Assemblymember Dan Hutchison said he sees clients “all the time” whose betting on football and baseball quickly leads to missed car payments, delinquent mortgages and, ultimately, bankruptcy.

The rise of live, in-game bets — in which a gambler could

place more than 200 individual bets during a baseball game if they wager on each pitch thrown — has only amplified his misgivings.

“And I’m like, are you kidding me? I mean, they’re betting on the next pitch, the next play, and it’s constant,” he said. “There’s no pause. It’s just not healthy.”

Worried that those bets can worsen problem gambling and threaten the integrity of sports,

Hutchison, a Democrat, introduced legislation to ban New Jersey gambling licensees from offering live bets on individual plays during sporting events.

That bill illustrates growing state interest in regulating proposition bets, commonly called prop bets, a form of sports betting that is popular with fans but worrisome for sports leagues and state officials nationwide.

Unlike wagering on which

team will win or the point spread of a game, prop bets can center on the performance of an individual player or even a single play that doesn’t necessarily affect the outcome of a contest. Prop bets can include trivia, such as the color of the Gatorade dumped over the Super Bowl’s winning coach, or specific stats, like how many touchdowns a certain quarter-

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MGM National Harbor, Gov. Larry Hogan and Joe Theismann launch sports betting in Maryland with BETMGM at MGM National Harbor on Dec. 9, 2021, in Oxon Hill, Maryland. GETTY IMAGES FILE

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