

Guiding State AI Policy with Actionable Data-Driven Insights: The State AI Preparedness (SAIP) Index

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Improving URE in public policymaking

- Use of research evidence (URE) in public policymaking is complex, dynamic, and at times unpredictable.
 - Policymaking is a political process, therefore both research and non-research evidence are routinely considered by policymakers.
 - Research evidence has a greater likelihood of being considered if policymakers perceive it to be relevant, timely, credible, and authoritative (persuasive).
 - Conceptual use of research evidence (i.e., as a source of ideas, information, and orientations) is more common in public policymaking than instrumental (scientific-like) use.

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A TAXONOMY OF INTERVENTION APPROACHES

METAPHOR	INTERVENTION RATIONALE	STRATEGIES
Two-communities metaphor	Researchers can more effectively connect research with policy if they better understand and adapt to policymakers' culture and routines and seek to build trust between the two communities.	-Science communication training -Opportunities for direct engagement
Market metaphor	Closing gaps between supply (available research) and demand (research policymakers need); competition (other inputs) and inaccessibility of research to policymakers merit investments in improving the "product" (but not also marketing it).	-Research synthesis/translation -Passive/active dissemination -Production of timely/relevant research
Brokerage metaphor	Leverage intermediaries to enhance flow of research inputs to policymakers and collect feedback (passive brokering) and/or filter, synthesize, package, and disseminate research findings (active brokerage). Brokers can be internal or external.	-Evidence clearinghouses/portals -Policymaker-researcher matchmaking -Knowledge brokerage -Research-based partnerships
System metaphor	Establish or rearrange exiting (sub)systems to build/improve capacity (internal or external, via networks and partnerships) to acquire and use relevant research and/or improve interorganizational sharing of research and coordination of research activities (e.g., evaluation).	-Organizational rearrangement -Promote a culture of evidence use -Build internal research capacity -Partner with a knowledge network
Policy dialogue metaphor	Introduce research into conversations among stakeholders regarding policy matters to raise issues, propose policy solutions, and facilitate agreement or consensus, if possible, on evidence-informed policies.	-Co-production of research -Collaborations with journalists -Policy advocacy



URE by design

- Most URE interventions are focused on the problem of research transfer/dissemination ([knowledge-to-policy](#)). As a result, they employ strategies and tactics that are too simplistic, rigid, prescriptive, and linear to produce consistent effects across users, levels, and settings or that can be scaled. This extends to interventions that seek to access or influence policymakers to use research evidence by building or leveraging relationships (e.g., brokerage).
- A user-centered design perspective on improving URE in policymaking is focused instead on enabling policymakers to acquire and use relevant, credible, and timely research evidence they need, when they need it, and in the format they prefer, to successfully navigate a complex and dynamic policymaking process and achieve their goals ([knowledge-for-policymaking](#)).
- The emphasis, therefore, should be on designing usable and useful tools that provide an optimal fit for the user's purpose, capacity, circumstances, and constraints on using research evidence.

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- Navigating the complex world of AI adoption can be a daunting task for state lawmakers and agencies. With the rapid advancement of AI technologies and their broad and indiscriminate adoption, it is crucial for policy to balance innovation with opportunity while mitigating potential societal risks.
- The SAIP index aims to simplify the process of evaluating and benchmarking AI adoption efforts, spotting trends, and empowering state lawmakers, agencies and elected leaders to make informed decisions that benefit their constituents.
- The SAIP index uses four pillars to measure states' readiness to integrate AI into their public services:
 - Government (regulatory frameworks, strategic vision, and ethical considerations).
 - AI workforce (innovation engines and skilled workforce availability).
 - Data (quality, availability, and representativeness).
 - Infrastructure (capacity to support AI-driven public services).

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- The tool identifies policy issues, maps them to the MIT AI Risk Repository, and generates data-informed policy recommendations, including use case scenarios and practical recommendations.
- It doubles as a research and policy advocacy tool for monitoring, benchmarking, and comparing AI-related legislation and AI preparedness across states and over time.

How It Works

1 | Select a state from the United States

2 | Select an industry sector

3 | The AI will identify AI bills relating to your chosen State and Sector

4 | The AI will map those AI bills to risks based on the [MIT Risk Repository](#)

5 | The AI will generate use case scenarios and policy recommendations

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State

Arizona

Agriculture

Energy

Healthcare

Technology

Finance and Insurance

Retail and Wholesale

Transportation and Infrastructure

Manufacturing

Construction

Education

Legal and Government Services

Hospitality and Tourism

Real Estate

Arts, Media, and Entertainment

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State

Arizona

Sector

Technology

START

Legislation Policies Overview	
State & Year	
▼	AZ - 2026
▼	AZ - 2027-2028

AI Risks by Bill			
	Bill Number	Bill Title	Policy Summary
▼	HB2410	Artificial intelligence; privileged communications	Private communication with artificial intelligence; privileged. This bill may lead to harmful content as it deals with private communication with AI, which could potentially be used to generate toxic or harmful content.
▼	HB4005	Artificial intelligence; course; public schools	Instruction on artificial intelligence in public schools, Ethical considerations for using artificial intelligence, Basic techniques for artificial intelligence prompts. This bill may lead to unhelpful uses of AI as it introduces AI instruction in public schools, which could result in improper uses of AI.
▼	SB1707	Appropriation; artificial intelligence; border security	appropriation for artificial intelligence relating to border security, distribution of monies to local law enforcement agencies for border security using artificial intelligence. This bill may lead to environmental and socioeconomic harms as it involves the use of AI for border security, which could have broader societal impacts.

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Use Case Scenarios and Policy Recommendations

Use Case Scenarios



Introduction of AI instruction in public schools

Recommendation	Actionable Steps	Expected Outcomes	Potential Challenges
Develop guidelines for the responsible use of AI in educational settings to mitigate the risk of unhelpful uses and privacy leakage.	- Establish clear policies on AI usage in schools - Provide training for educators on AI ethics and safety - Implement monitoring systems to detect potential misuse	Improved safety and responsible use of AI in public schools, reducing the risk of unhelpful uses and privacy leakage.	- Resistance from educators or administrators to adopting new guidelines - Difficulty in keeping pace with evolving AI technologies



Use of AI for border security