

AI in Education

Is It a Good Thing, or Not?



* AI in the Service of Learning

Let's dig deeper into the question at the heart of this series:
Is AI in education a good thing or not?

Is it a good idea, and if so, under what circumstances? How should we go about it?

Here are some potential uses of AI systems in our schools.

Before Using an AI System

Because we want to learn with AI and not depend on it, here are three questions to ask before using an AI system:

- 1
Task

What Is the Task to Accomplish?

Is it a math problem to solve?
Is it a text to write?
Is it a timeline to create?
- 2
Objective

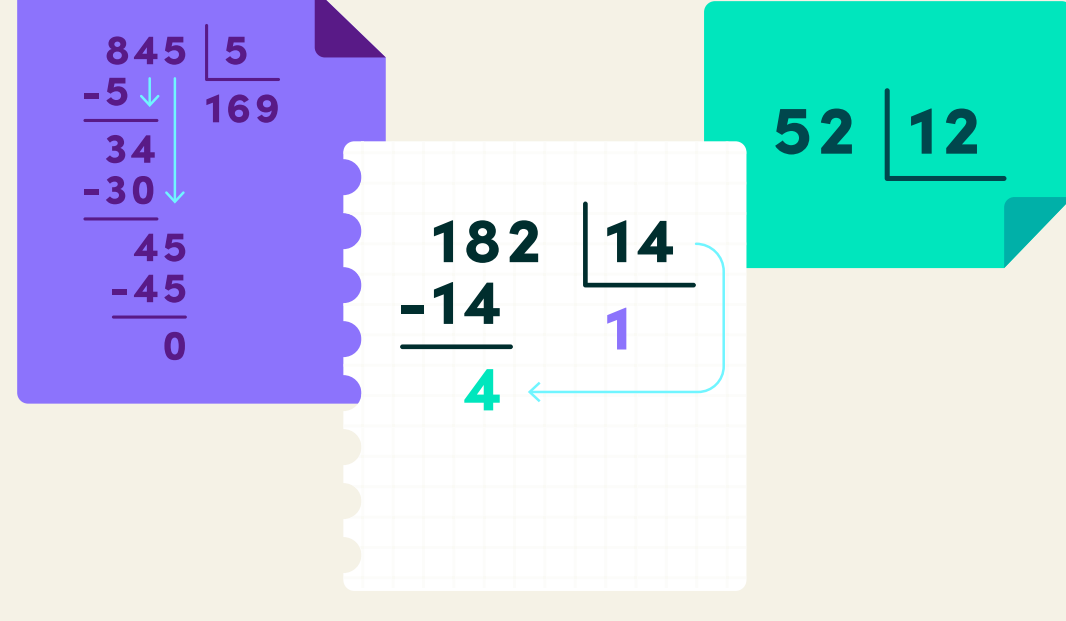
What Is the Learning Objective?

Is it learning how to solve a math problem? Is it learning how to make a critical judgment or analyze historical events?
- 3
Intent

What Kind of Help is needed?

Will AI help students learn, understand, or overcome a difficulty by explaining things in a different way? Or will it be doing the work for them?

Let’s draw a parallel with the use of a calculator.



- 1
Task

If the task is to perform several divisions involving large numbers.
- 2
Objective

If the goal is to learn how to do divisions by hand.
- 3
Intent

Using a calculator won’t help students learn, since it will do the divisions for them.



- 1
Task

If the task is to perform several divisions involving large numbers.
- 2
Objective

If the goal is to solve a complex situational problem.
- 3
Intent

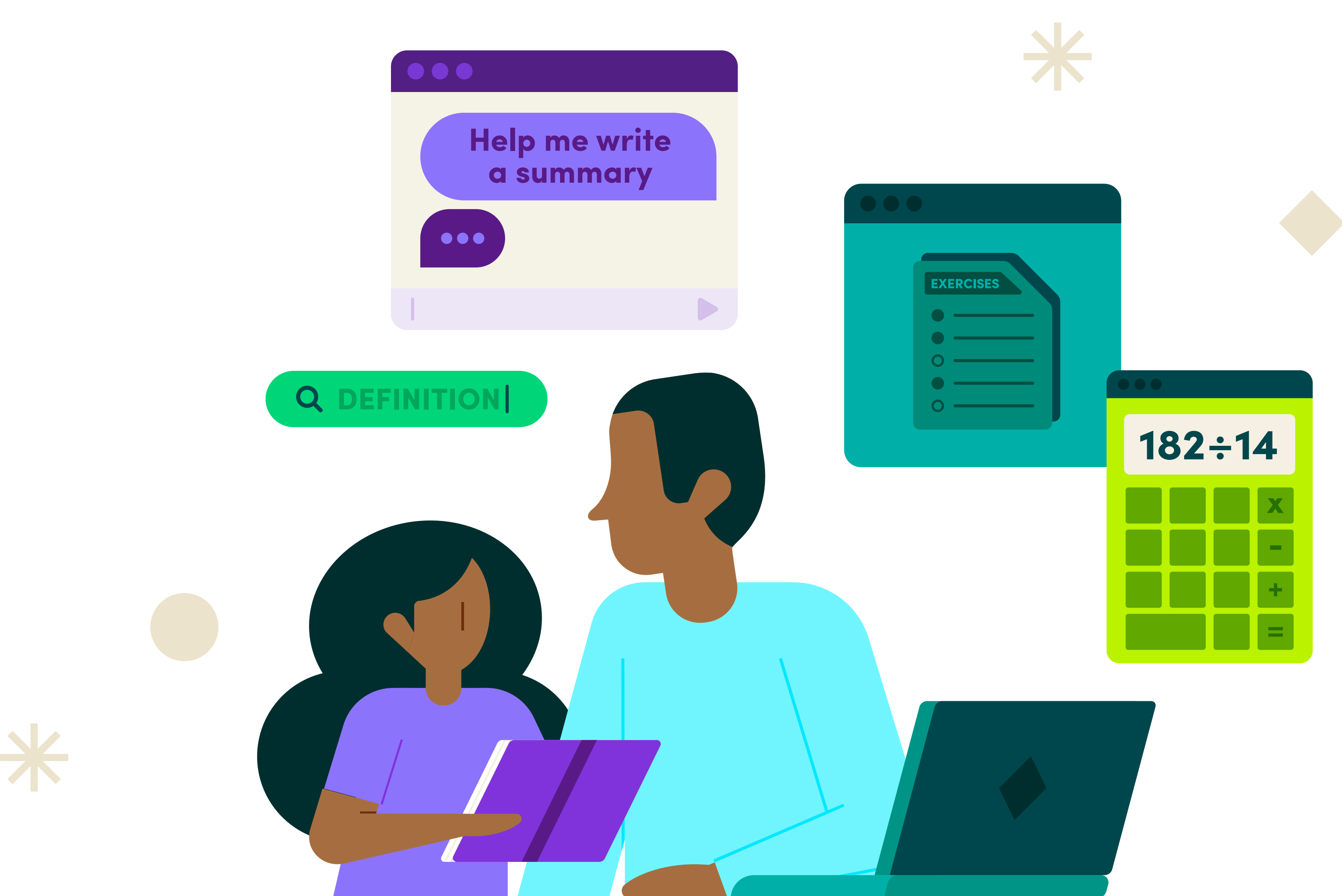
Using a calculator can help students with their calculations so they can focus on developing their mathematical reasoning.



AI that Helps with Homework

Educational programs vary across generations. As a parent, it can be challenging to help your child with their homework...

Conversational agents and generative AI systems can be powerful allies for parents!



They can produce summaries, provide explanations, suggest additional exercises, or supply sources.

Moreover, they adapt based on the questions asked and never get tired of helping!



Where possible, it's preferable to use AI systems developed in Quebec and specialized in education rather than general AI systems.

This is because specialized systems are typically trained on high-quality databases, validated by experts, and aligned with the Quebec Education Program.

These generative AI systems lack critical thinking skills and can make mistakes.

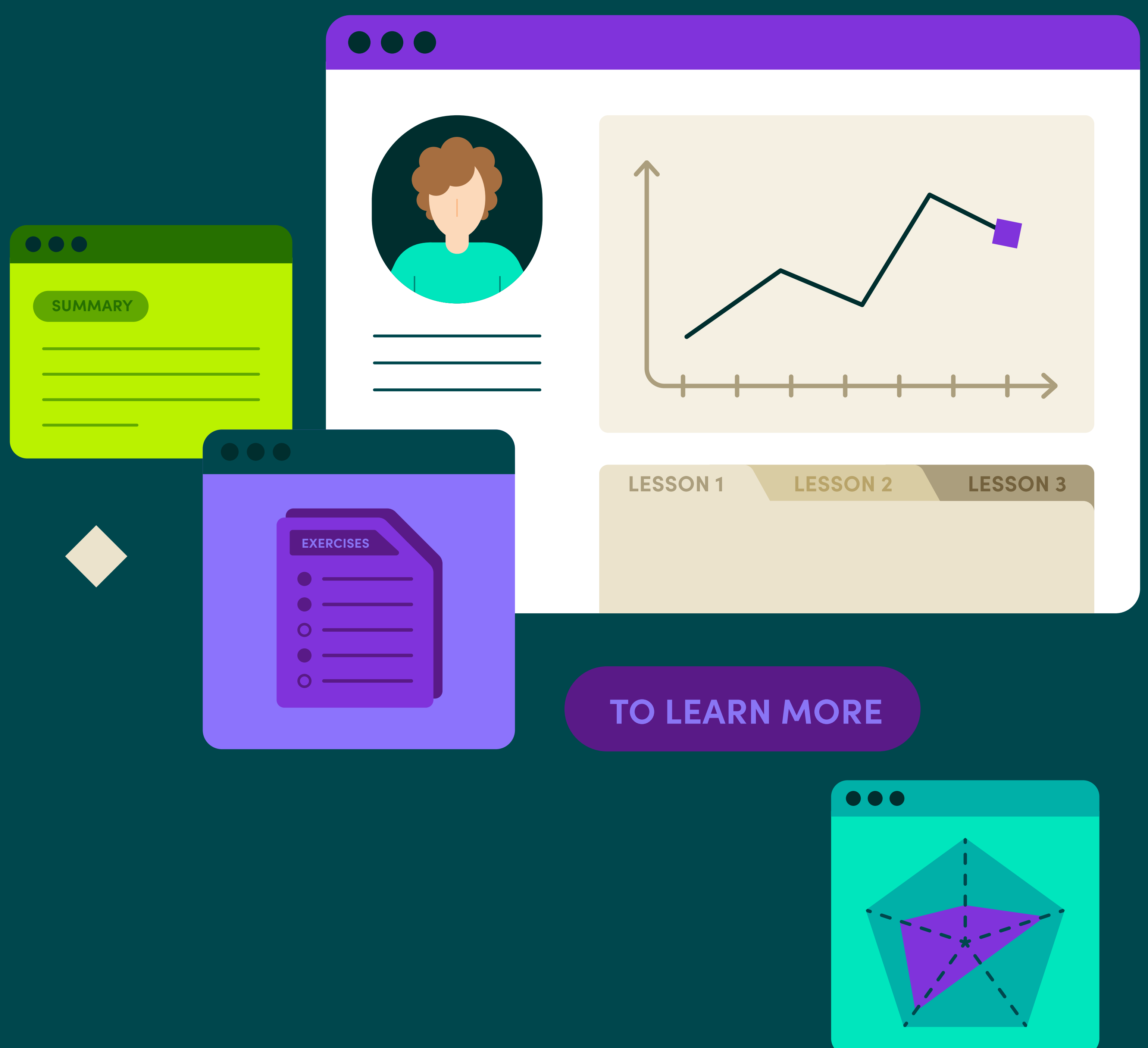
As parents, don't hesitate to challenge the AI system: check a few sources with your child and evaluate the quality of the AI's answers together!

AI that Helps Personalize Learning

Some applications are specifically designed to assist and support students with special needs or those who face learning or adaptation challenges.

The Right Support at the Right Moment

Whether at school or at home, these tools can boost motivation, perseverance, and learning by providing the right support at the right time.



Personalizing School Work

By analyzing learning progress, these tools can offer personalized workloads, exercises, or additional explanations, which can be helpful for students who want to take their learning further.

AI that Supports Student Perseverance

There are AI systems that assess students' risk of dropping out of school. By identifying students who are at risk of dropping out at an earlier stage than before, it becomes possible to intervene early and in an appropriate manner, offering them the best chance of academic success.



Same Approach, Different Tool

Before AI came along, identifying at-risk students relied mainly on questionnaires and analysis of school data, such as academic performance, absenteeism rates, or lack of engagement. These analyses were time-consuming and resource intensive.

Today, AI systems can handle these analyses and detect early warning signs of dropout using the education system's existing administrative databases.

A Guided and Strategic Deployment

In Quebec, this tool was designed and deployed with the support of recognized expert organizations in artificial intelligence, rights, and education to ensure its use is ethical, legal, and consistent with best educational practices.

The rollout is gradual, strategic, and accompanied by training.

This solution is only one additional tool for school organizations in their efforts to prevent students from dropping out.

Final decisions and interventions are, and will always be, made by qualified individuals, not computers.



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Video 03

View the video!

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