AN ADMINISTRATOR'S GUIDE FOR ARKANSAS SCHOOLS

# Your Google and AI Path

## Three paths, one simple chooser, and the steps to take before Google's student account change arrives.

Gemini, Gemini Notebook, Gemini in Classroom, and Google Search will be turned off for K-12 student accounts until an administrator turns them on. This guide helps your district decide what to do, and when.

**A**
**Keep Google and turn the tools on**

**B**
**Keep Google and leave AI off**

**C**
**Look at other platforms**

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PAGE 3 **Which path fits your district**, with six questions to ask any platform.

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Prepared by Growth Right Solutions, LLC, Cave City, Arkansas | Version 4 | November 4, 2026
We are watching Google's announcements and will update this guide when its administrator steps are published.

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ADMINISTRATOR'S GUIDE FOR ARKANSAS SCHOOLS | VERSION 4 | NOVEMBER 4, 2026

# Google is changing student accounts. Here is how to choose on your own terms.

On November 3, 2026, Google announced that Gemini, Gemini Notebook, Gemini in Classroom, and Google Search will stay off for K-12 student accounts until a school administrator turns them on. This guide lays out your three paths, so your board and your team can pick one with confidence and with time to spare.

## WHAT GOOGLE HAS ANNOUNCED

### Four Google tools will be turned off for students

Gemini, Gemini Notebook, Gemini in Classroom, and Google Search will all be turned off for K-12 student accounts. They stay off until a school administrator turns them on.

### No start date yet

Google says it will share specifics with schools in the coming months. News reports point to early 2027.

### Google Search is part of the choice

Google's vice president for education told The New York Times that in a school that bans AI, students would not have access to Google Search.

## YOUR THREE PATHS

PATH A

### Keep Google and turn the tools on

Your students keep Google Search and gain Google's AI features, on the grades and tools you choose.

**Best when** your district is committed to Chromebooks and Google accounts and wants students learning with AI under your adopted policy.

PATH B

### Keep Google and leave AI off

Your district keeps Google accounts and Google Classroom. Because Google Search stays off, students use a different tool for research.

**Best when** you have a research tool picked out for students and want more time before introducing student AI.

PATH C

### Look at other platforms

Other platforms and devices are available. Your district may find one or more fit your policy, your budget, and your classrooms better.

**Best when** you are not tied to Chromebooks, or a device refresh is already on your calendar.

### If you want to keep Google, a few decisions need to happen soon.

Google has not published its administrator steps, and the holidays will shorten the time between now and the change. Districts that settle their decisions first will be ready the day the steps arrive. Page 4 lists what to do now, and we are glad to walk through it with you at no charge.

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WHICH PATH FITS YOUR DISTRICT

# Two questions point you to a path.

Start at the top and follow your answers. Every path is a sound choice when it matches your adopted policy and your classrooms.

**Do you want students learning with Google's AI features in class?**

**YES**

**Path A: Keep Google and turn the tools on**

Choose the tools and grades, tie them to your Act 848 policy, and prepare your team and families.

**NOT YET**

**Can your students do their research without Google Search?**

**YES**

**Path B**

Keep Google and Google Classroom, leave AI off, and give students a different research tool.

**NO**

**Path A or C**

Turn the tools on, or compare other platforms.

IF YOU ARE WEIGHING PATH C

## Six questions to ask any platform, including Google.

**Does it fit your adopted policy?**
It should support the rules your board already approved under Act 848.

**How is student data protected?**
Ask for the privacy terms in writing and read them with your team.

**What do your devices cost to change?**
Count the devices you own now, their age, and your refresh schedule.

**Who controls the settings?**
Your district should decide who sees which tools, by grade and by school.

**Will students still have a way to search?**
Research is part of every classroom.

**What training comes with it?**
Tools work best when your teachers know how to ask, check, and decide.

Other vendors offer student AI too. For example, Microsoft states that Copilot Chat is available to students aged 13 and older. We have not compared any of them for your district yet, and we would be glad to build that comparison with you.

### Teacher tools can move on their own track.

Google's announcement addresses K-12 student accounts. Your decisions about teacher tools, including the free year of Claude for Teachers when your district enrolls by June 30, 2027, do not have to wait for it.

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IF YOU CHOOSE TO KEEP GOOGLE

# Six steps to take now, before Google publishes its administrator steps.

1. **Name one decision owner.**
   One person gathers the facts and brings the choice to your board.
2. **Check your adopted AI policy.**
   Confirm it speaks to student use of AI tools and student access to Google Search.
3. **Find out who holds your Google administrator privileges.**
   Google's admin console already lets an administrator with the Gemini Settings privilege control Gemini features by organizational unit, so confirm who that is.
4. **Decide which tools, and for which grades.**
   Gemini, Gemini Notebook, Gemini in Classroom, and Google Search each deserve a decision.
5. **Prepare a short, calm message.**
   Families, teachers, and students each hear from you before anything changes.
6. **Train your teachers on the habits that carry to any tool.**
   Teachers who know how to ask, check, and decide are ready for whichever tool your district chooses.

### What we do not know yet

Google has not said when the change takes effect or how administrators turn each tool on, and it has not said whether a version of Search without AI will be offered for student accounts. We are watching Google's announcements and will update this guide as soon as the steps are published.

## Keep Google, or look at the other paths? We will walk through it with you.

A 30-minute video call, at no charge, for you or anyone on your team. No sales, no obligation. Bring your questions, and we will bring a plan.

**Call 870-410-5244** | **bit.ly/GRSMeetings**

Google's announcement: https://bit.ly/GoogleK12AI

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