

Alongside AI Chatbot Fills Counselor Gaps in US Schools — Northwestern Pilot Finds Mixed Results

AI in Education · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 27/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Alongside, an AI chatbot now in 200+ US schools across 19 states, helped flag at-risk students in a Texas/New Mexico pilot, but showed no significant effect on depression, anxiety or loneliness overall, and an independent Common Sense Media review found real detection gaps.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of learning impact	0/3
Equity & inclusion	1/3
Transparency, ethics & data protection	1/3
Teacher capability & pedagogy	0/3
Scalability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-21

[Alongside, Inc.](#) — accessed 2026-09-21

[EdSource: 'We actually saved a kid': Schools recruit AI chatbots as counselor shortage persists](#) — accessed 2026-09-21

[Common Sense Media: AI Risk Assessment — AI Chatbots for Mental Health Support](#) — accessed 2026-09-21

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