

Japan's Digital-Textbook Legalisation and AI-Training Consent Waiver — A Cautionary Governance Case

AI in Education · Good practice · Japan

Quality score: 20/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

On 7 April 2026 Japan's Cabinet approved full legal status for digital textbooks, equal to print, alongside a privacy-law amendment waiving individual consent for some student data used in AI development -- a pairing analysts flagged as a data-governance risk.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of learning impact	0/3
Equity & inclusion	0/3
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 2026-08-07

[Japanese Cabinet / MEXT \(Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-07

[The Japan Times](#) — accessed 2026-08-07

[Institute for Social Vision Design — structural analysis](#) — accessed 2026-08-07

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