

Lightleap AI Cuts Financial-Aid Fraud by 96% at Golden West College — California's Statewide Community-College Rollout

AI in Education · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Golden West College deployed N2N Services' Lightleap AI to screen financial-aid applicants, cutting fraudulent 'ghost student' flags from 10-15 to 2-3 per cycle, an estimated 96% reduction, now used or planned at 80 of California's 115 community colleges.

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	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-09-01

Golden West College (Coast Community College District) / California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office — accessed 2026-09-01

inewssource: California community colleges using AI to combat fraud — accessed 2026-09-01

EdSource: How California community colleges are using AI to battle financial aid fraud — accessed 2026-09-01

Fortune: Ghost students colleges back to school — accessed 2026-09-01

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