Training Novices to Think, or Giving Them LLMs? — Bocconi's Pre-Registered 1,053-Student RCT of ChatGPT and Causal-Reasoning Training

AI in Education · Good practice · Italy

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Pre-registered 2×2 RCT with 1,053 first-year Bocconi students in 13 classes: ChatGPT Edu (GPT-4o) raised rubric scores by 0.86 points on a 1–5 scale (control 2.09); causal-reasoning training didn't raise grades but produced more diverse ideas.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-18

Bocconi University (with OpenAI Economic Research) — accessed 2026-11-18

Bocconi News — study announcement — accessed 2026-11-18

Working paper (PDF, August 2026) — accessed 2026-11-18

CEPR Discussion Paper 21882 (RePEc/IDEAS) — accessed 2026-11-18

Resultsense — independent commentary and caveats — accessed 2026-11-18

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