# Khan Academy’s Khanmigo AI flags mental health risks to support students and educators



In an era where mental health awareness is paramount, innovative solutions to support students experiencing emotional distress are becoming increasingly vital. Recently, Khan Academy introduced Khanmigo, an AI-powered tool designed to assist students in recognising and addressing their mental health needs. This technology not only offers academic support but also serves as a vital intervention mechanism by flagging concerning language that may indicate self-harm or other mental health crises.

During a segment with Anderson Cooper, it was emphasised that Khanmigo has the capacity to identify troubling student behaviour and notify teachers or mental health counsellors. This proactive approach aims to create a safety net for students, potentially preventing crises through timely intervention. As Cooper pointed out, the ability of AI to monitor and analyse student activity opens a new frontier in educational support, particularly for those grappling with emotional challenges.

The New Hampshire Department of Education is embracing this technology by launching a pilot programme that grants free access to Khanmigo for educators and students in grades 5-12. The initiative not only aims to enhance academic performance through personalised learning support but also integrates mental health monitoring, making it a crucial resource for educational institutions. This dual focus on academics and mental well-being illustrates a comprehensive approach that addresses the multifaceted needs of students today.

Khanmigo functions as a personal tutor and teaching assistant, delivering tailored guidance in various subjects. Beyond academic assistance, the AI's data analysis capabilities can aid teachers in understanding student progress and identifying those in need of additional support. This holistic application of AI in education underscores the potential benefits of integrating technology into classrooms, particularly in fostering supportive environments for students.

Emerging insights indicate that generative AI, exemplified by Khanmigo, not only personalises learning experiences but also plays a pivotal role in the mental health dialogue within schools. By enabling educators to respond swiftly to troubling signs, institutions are better equipped to nurture resilient learners. As mental health issues among students continue to escalate, the implementation of such AI tools could be instrumental in reshaping educational practices and safeguarding student well-being.

The initial results from pilot programmes like that in New Hampshire could serve as a model for broader adoption across various educational settings. As educators and institutions recognise the importance of mental health support, tools like Khanmigo illustrate a promising step towards creating more responsive and inclusive learning environments. The integration of technology in mental wellness frameworks may not only benefit individual students but also foster an overall culture of care and vigilance within schools.

Given the increasing recognition of the vital link between mental health and academic success, the deployment of AI tools like Khanmigo may well define the future of educational support. By combining academic and emotional assistance, these innovations could fundamentally enhance the educational landscape, aiding students in navigating both their studies and their mental health challenges.

### Reference Map:

1. Paragraph 1: Sources 1, 2, 3
2. Paragraph 2: Sources 1, 3, 4
3. Paragraph 3: Sources 5, 6
4. Paragraph 4: Sources 6, 4
5. Paragraph 5: Sources 2, 3, 6
6. Paragraph 6: Sources 4, 5
7. Paragraph 7: Sources 4, 6

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/how-classroom-ai-khanmigo-can-help-students-in-emotional-distress/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/how-classroom-ai-khanmigo-can-help-students-in-emotional-distress/> - In this CBS News segment, Anderson Cooper discusses how Khan Academy's AI, Khanmigo, identifies concerning student activity on the platform, leading to interventions by mental health counselors. The AI's ability to flag such activities is highlighted as a significant support tool for students in emotional distress.
3. <https://www.cbsnews.com/amp/news/how-classroom-ai-khanmigo-can-help-students-in-emotional-distress-60-minutes/> - This CBS News article explores how Khanmigo, an AI developed by Khan Academy, assists students by detecting concerning language related to self-harm or other issues, alerting teachers or counselors for intervention. The piece emphasizes the AI's role in providing a safety net for students facing emotional challenges.
4. <https://www.education.nh.gov/news-and-media/new-hampshire-department-education-enables-free-access-khanmigo-ai-pilot-all-new-hampshire-educators> - The New Hampshire Department of Education has initiated a pilot program offering free access to Khan Academy's AI, Khanmigo, for all educators and students in grades 5-12. The program aims to provide personalized learning support and includes professional development for educators.
5. <https://www.khanmigo.ai/> - Khanmigo is an AI-powered personal tutor and teaching assistant developed by Khan Academy. It offers on-demand support for students and teachers, providing personalized guidance across various subjects and assisting educators with lesson planning and data analysis.
6. <https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2023/05/generative-ai-in-education-a-case-study-of-khan-academy/> - This article discusses how Khan Academy utilizes generative AI through Khanmigo to provide personalized guidance and mentorship to students. It highlights the AI's role in offering support across various subjects and assisting teachers with lesson planning and data analysis.
7. <https://www.education.nh.gov/news-and-media/new-hampshire-department-education-enables-free-access-khanmigo-ai-pilot-all-new-hampshire-educators> - The New Hampshire Department of Education has initiated a pilot program offering free access to Khan Academy's AI, Khanmigo, for all educators and students in grades 5-12. The program aims to provide personalized learning support and includes professional development for educators.