

# Five questions every district should ask every education-AI vendor

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Any vendor claiming their AI “works” should be able to answer yes — with links — to all five. “Trust us” is a no.

## 1. Can we inspect the model?

Are the weights (or a meaningful evaluation surface) available for independent testing — not just a scripted demo? Good looks like: downloadable weights or a public evaluation endpoint.

## 2. Are its limitations documented next to its capabilities?

Does the model card state what the system cannot do, with numbers? A card with only strengths is an advertisement. Good looks like: published error rates and failure modes, even unflattering ones.

## 3. Has it been evaluated on a benchmark it could not have trained on?

Ask specifically how contamination was controlled: held-out data, redacted detection signals, versioning. Good looks like: a public benchmark with a documented held-out split — and the vendor’s actual scores on it.

## 4. Is the data provenance stated?

What was it trained and evaluated on, under what licenses and consent? Student data handled under what agreements? Good looks like: a data statement you could hand to your privacy officer.

## 5. Can an independent party reproduce the quality claims?

If a researcher wanted to check the headline claim, is everything they need public? Good looks like: open evaluators, open data, versioned results — reproduction possible without the vendor’s permission.

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**Why we publish this:** we hold ourselves to it. Our models, cards, evaluation data, and honest numbers are public at [play.quantumlearningmachines.com/developer](https://play.quantumlearningmachines.com/developer) and [huggingface.co/QuantumLearningMachines](https://huggingface.co/QuantumLearningMachines). Ask us all five — and ask everyone else too.

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