

# New Opinion Piece Warns: Schools Failing to Equip Students With Critical Thinking Skills as AI Shortcuts Rise

*Education Thought Leader Joe DiDonato Points to Real-World Examples of Short-Term Thinking with Long-Term Consequences — and Calls for Action*

ATLANTA, GA, UNITED STATES, July 10, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In a newly published article on

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Employers consistently cite critical thinking as one of the most important skills for the workforce, but also one of the hardest to find. That should concern every parent, teacher, and school board.”

*Joe DiDonato, President,  
ESource University*

LinkedIn, education industry veteran Joe DiDonato highlights an overlooked weakness in the U.S. education system: its lack of emphasis on building critical thinking skills — a gap that is becoming more apparent as students increasingly rely on AI tools like ChatGPT to complete homework assignments.

The opinion piece, titled “[Critical Thinking: The Real Skill Schools Are Missing in the Age of AI](#),” uses factual, real-world events — including the 2008 financial crisis, the spread of online misinformation, and preventable environmental disasters — to illustrate what happens when people prioritize convenience over deeper analysis.

“Too many students are learning how to find quick answers, but not how to ask the right questions,” DiDonato said. “Employers consistently cite critical thinking as one of the most important skills for the workforce, but also one of the hardest to find. That should concern every parent, teacher, and local school board.”

## The Reality Behind the Opinion

DiDonato’s article points to several well-known examples that demonstrate the real costs of short-term decision-making and a lack of critical thinking:

**2008 Financial Crisis:** Lenders, investors, and homebuyers made risky decisions without questioning worst-case scenarios, leading to a global recession.

**Fake News and Misinformation:** Widespread sharing of unverified headlines continues to impact

elections and public health.

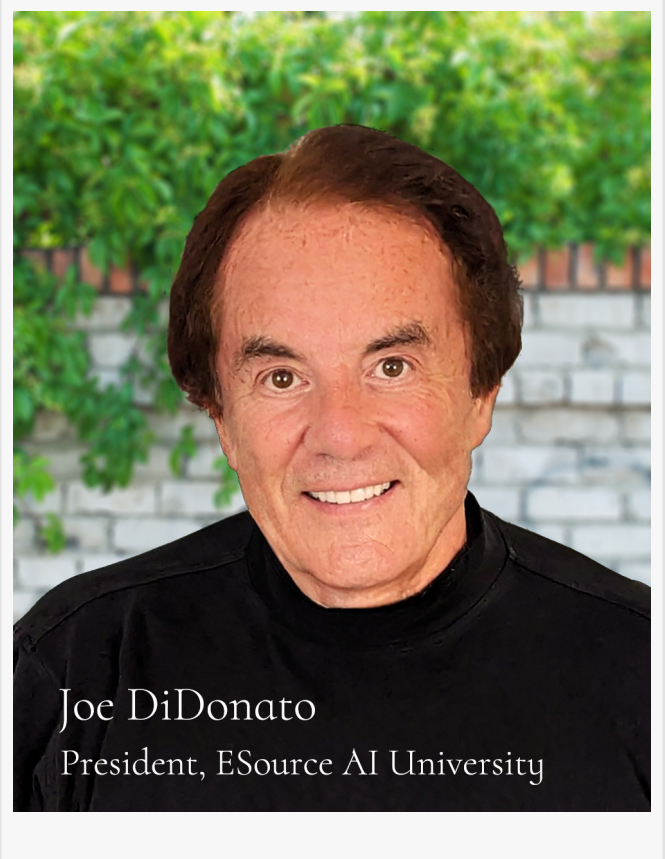
**Environmental Damage:** Incidents like oil spills and unsustainable land use show how short-term convenience can cause irreversible harm.

**AI Shortcuts in Schools:** Reports and surveys now show many students are using tools like ChatGPT to generate homework responses without developing the underlying reasoning skills.

These examples are all documented by reputable public sources, including government reports and independent research studies on educational outcomes.

**A Growing Concern for Schools and Parents**

A 2022 Future of Jobs report by the World Economic Forum lists “analytical thinking” and “complex problem-solving” among the top skills employers will demand in the coming decade. However, standardized curricula often leave little time for teaching students how to think critically about problems that don’t have a clear answer.



“Technology can either make this problem worse or help solve it,” DiDonato said. “AI shouldn’t be a crutch for students — it should be a tool that pushes them to think more deeply.”

**A Call for Better Tools and Better Questions**

DiDonato’s article calls on parents, educators, and policymakers to recognize the long-term risk of shortcut thinking — and to support approaches that build the questioning, analysis, and problem-solving skills students will need to handle an unpredictable future.

The full article is available on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/critical-thinking-real-skill-schools-missing-age-ai-joe-didonato-hc2xc/>

**About Joe DiDonato**

Joe DiDonato is a longtime advocate for innovation in education and workplace learning. He has served in senior leadership roles across multiple industries and continues to write and speak on the future of learning, workforce development, and the responsible use of emerging technology.

Michael Giambra  
ESource Corp  
+1 973-829-0010

[email us here](#)

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