

CHAT vs ChatGPT Education Comparison (5/2026)

Feature	CHAT	ChatGPT Education
Price	Variable; Price based on actual usage of the tool.	\$300 Per User Per Fiscal Year
Models Available	Various models from OpenAI and Google (for select uses) with more vendors coming in the future	OpenAI ChatGPT Models
Similarities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Web search availability for models ● Image generation ● Supports the majority of texted based files for upload (Docx, pdf, xlsx, csv, html, pptx, etc.) ● Basic query functionality 	
Unique Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CHAT allows users access to multiple LLMs in a single space at a low cost. ● Open source developed by CUIT. ● Conversations can be imported/exported to and from other LLMs. ● Multilingual UI options available. 	Access to the latest ChatGPT features and advanced tools, such as Deep Research, Newest ChatGPT Models, Codex and File Creation
Best For	Departments wanting to give users access to the latest AI Models from multiple providers for a	Users who want take advantage of vendor specific tools and features of ChatGPT, or power users

	fraction of the cost.	who use the tool regularly for professional or research tasks
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File creation can not be done through CHAT. • While CHAT will have more recent AI models, they might not be released as quickly compared to ChatGPT Education or other direct vendors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only OpenAI models are available. • High price for new users or teams
Customization Options	Users can build custom GPTs in the tool using all the models available.	Users can build custom GPTs that can be shared with other Columbia Education license users
APIs	CHAT does not allow users to pull or use APIs from models provided.	<p>Users can request an OpenAI API using Columbia's ChatGPT Education account for an additional cost.</p> <p>Info can be found at https://www.cuit.columbia.edu/content/openai-api-education</p>
Support	Email cuitchat@columbia.edu	Email aiconsult@columbia.edu