



ISTE Seal Review Findings Report

**Activate
Learning**

2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT	3
About ISTE	3
ISTE Seal	3
RESOURCE DESCRIPTION	5
What is Activate Learning?	5
How is Activate Learning Implemented?	5
ISTE SEAL REVIEW	6
Review Methodology	6
Scope of Review	7
Review Findings	7
CONCLUSION	14

ABOUT

ABOUT ISTE

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) is home to a community of global educators and solution providers who are passionate about using technology to revolutionize learning. Our vision is to create a bold community where education innovators are supported in reimagining and redesigning learning with a focus on using technology to create transformational and equitable experiences for learners. We're making this vision a reality by delivering practical guidance, evidence-based professional learning, virtual networks, thought-provoking events and the ISTE Standards.

ISTE SEAL

The ISTE Seal serves as a mark of high-quality product design for solutions that enable and guide high-quality learning. By choosing to demonstrate their commitment to supporting best practices for teaching and learning, these products show a purposeful and meaningful dedication to practical usability, digital pedagogical implementation, and the ISTE Standards. With a focus on user experience, product usability, and the most essential elements of instructional technology today, the ISTE Seal provides a set of criteria and simple indicators to guide educators, students, and technology directors toward the very best products on the market.

ISTE awards a seal only after an extensive analysis conducted by trained ISTE reviewers that ensures a product meets all critical elements under specific review criteria.



By earning an ISTE Seal, ISTE verifies that this product:

- Promotes critical technology skills.
- Supports the use of technology in appropriate ways.
- Incorporates digital pedagogy and the learning sciences.
- Addresses key elements of tech usability, user experience and user interface.
- Aligns to ISTE Standards in specific ways.

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

WHAT IS *Activate Learning*?

The Activate Learning Digital Platform is designed for student accessibility and inclusion and offers embedded translation for 130+ languages, text-to-speech with read-along highlighting, sentence starters to support writing, and more.

As a certified OpenSciEd partner, Activate Learning provides the digital platform, books, science kits, and professional learning to make OpenSciEd K-12 implementation smooth and successful.

HOW IS *Activate Learning* IMPLEMENTED?

Activate Learning partners with school districts to implement OpenSciEd K-12 core science curriculum. Activate Learning provides comprehensive support to implement the curriculum, including an interactive digital platform for teachers and students, NGSS-aligned assessments, print student notebooks and teacher editions, hands-on science kits, and personalized professional learning services for teachers and administrators. The Activate Learning Certified Version of OpenSciEd K-12 is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and is designed for equitable science learning.

ISTE SEAL REVIEW

Product: Activate Learning with OpenSciEd K-12

Product Type: Platform

Organization: Activate Learning

Date of Award: June 2026

REVIEW METHODOLOGY

ISTE Seal reviews are conducted by a distinguished panel of experts in education, instruction, and technology. These experts utilize the most up-to-date data provided by the organization to conduct thorough evaluations of each solution. The evaluations focus on assessing the solution's performance in addressing specific elements outlined in the technical and pedagogical usability framework and the ISTE Standards.

To complete their rigorous evaluations, the reviewers utilize a comprehensive rating system, categorizing each solution as either "meets expectations" or "does not meet expectations." This assessment covers both the required and optional "Look Fors" outlined in the application. To ensure the validity and reliability of their results, the reviewers regularly engage in calibrations. Final review findings are then analyzed and combined, providing an overall score for alignment with each indicator.

At ISTE, we take great pride in our unwavering commitment to delivering results that schools and districts can have full confidence in. To be deemed education-ready learning solutions, products must meet the high standards in learning sciences, user experience and interface, accessibility, and content quality.



SCOPE OF REVIEW

Activate Learning was reviewed against the technical, pedagogical usability framework and the ISTE Standards to determine whether **the solution is education-ready**. ISTE reviewers examined all evidence provided by the organization and interacted directly with the product.

REVIEW FINDINGS

ISTE STANDARDS: The ISTE Standards provide the competencies for learning, teaching, and leading in the digital age, providing a comprehensive roadmap for the effective use of technology in schools worldwide. Grounded in learning science research and based on practitioner experience, the ISTE Standards ensure that using technology for learning can create high-impact, sustainable, scalable, and equitable learning experiences for all learners.

Empowered Learner 1.1.a, 1.1.c, 1.1.d

Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.

Knowledge Constructor 1.3.b, 1.3.d

Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.

Innovative Designer 1.4.a- 1.4.d

Students use a variety of technologies within a design process to identify and solve problems by creating new, useful or imaginative solutions.

Computational Thinker 1.5.a-1.5.c

Students develop and employ strategies for understanding and solving problems in ways that leverage the power of technological methods to develop and test solutions.




Creative Communicator 1.6.a-1.6.c


Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.

Global Collaborator 1.7.c


Students contribute constructively to project teams, assuming various roles and responsibilities to work effectively toward a common goal.

FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedded feedback tools and structured reflection opportunities throughout the platform allow students to demonstrate their learning in multiple formats and receive feedback directly tied to their work. • Real-world, relevant scenarios and phenomena are consistently used to engage students in authentic learning experiences. • Students engage in open-ended, authentic challenges that require interpretation, persistence, and iterative problem-solving, with a cyclical design process embedded throughout. • Structured tasks guide students in breaking complex problems into component parts, collecting and analyzing data in multiple ways, and developing models to support conclusions and decision-making. • The platform supports students in selecting from a variety of tools and formats to communicate complex 	



<p>ideas, create original work, and visually represent their thinking through models, diagrams, and mapping tools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students contribute to group-based projects, collaborating to develop solutions and shared outcomes using platform tools for documentation and development. 	
<p>DIMENSION 1: USER INTERFACE AND AGENCY</p> <p>Definition: The design of the product interface and user experience helps teachers quickly and reliably achieve instructional goals. This dimension includes features related to interface design, learnability, navigation, maximizing time on task, control over actions, and general usability.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">FEEDBACK</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OUTCOME</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onboarding supports and a guided tutorial help new users begin using core functionality with minimal effort. • Users login through a clean, streamlined process enabled by custom district URLs and Single Sign On (SSO) integrations with major platforms. • Persistent left-side navigation, aligned with key instructional workflows, makes core areas easy to locate. • The interface presents a clear information hierarchy with consistently formatted, prominently displayed key elements and uses menus and accordions to reduce visual clutter. 	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>




<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers can view student-facing content at any time, including side-by-side with teacher materials. • The platform provides interface customization options, including multiple viewing modes and adjustable layout controls. 	
<p>DIMENSION 2: LEARNING DESIGN</p> <p>Definition: The product has features that exhibit and promote design and customization of learning episodes in ways that align with research-based best practices, including those rooted in the learning sciences.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">FEEDBACK</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OUTCOME</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Units and lessons display learning outcomes through standards alignment, lesson questions, and guiding challenges. • The platform uses a range of content types, including text, visuals, video, and interactive elements, intentionally aligned to student age and learning goals. • Teachers can assign and sequence lessons and activities based on instructional needs and can modify lesson structure and adjust what students see. • Structured reflection prompts, discussions, and activities embedded throughout lessons connect new learning to prior knowledge, with regular opportunities for students to revisit and revise their conclusions. 	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>



DIMENSION 3: DIGITAL PEDAGOGY

Definition: The product is designed to support the development of digital age learning skills, capacities and knowledge. This dimension focuses on how technology can help students and teachers experience the best possible learning experiences, including the social and learning affordances that digital educational products uniquely offer.


FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students develop explanations and solutions based on phenomena in authentic, real-world contexts through sensemaking and problem-solving tasks. • Students engage in structured problem definition activities that include data collection, testing, and iterative refinement. • Students locate, evaluate, and use information to complete tasks, using structured prompts and response fields to document their thinking and assess the credibility of sources. • Structured activities and built-in tools guide students through brainstorming, data collection, analysis, testing, and solution iteration. 	

DIMENSION 4: INCLUSIVITY

Definition: The product helps teachers provide learning experiences that are relevant to students of many cultures, backgrounds, and abilities, and support




learner motivation and agency in the learning process. The product meets current guidelines around accessibility, and supports a positive classroom culture.

FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The platform incorporates diverse, real-world examples that reflect a range of people, cultures, and lived experiences, with representation that is authentic and integrated into the content. • Real-world stories and structured prompts encourage students to consider multiple perspectives and connect learning to their own experiences. • The platform includes accessible features such as closed captioning, text-to-speech, and display adjustments. 	

DIMENSION 5: ASSESSMENT AND DATA

Definition: The product uses formative assessments – learning experiences that help make visible what students know and don’t yet know – to generate data that inform teachers about student knowledge and skill gaps, and provide students assessment feedback that is specific, actionable, and constructive. As such, it guides teachers’ instructional decisions and students’ learning journeys.

FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons include embedded formative assessment through checks for understanding, reflection, and task-based evaluation, with assessments clearly 	



aligned to learning objectives and instructional activities.

- Rubrics offer detailed criteria that clarify expectations and support students' understanding of performance.
- A variety of assessment types and submission formats provide students with multiple ways to demonstrate their understanding.
- Auto-scored responses and teacher comments provide timely feedback for students.
- Visual assessment results and a student usage metrics dashboard give teachers a clear, accessible view of both performance and engagement data at the class and individual student levels.

CONCLUSION

The Activate Learning Certified Version of OpenSciEd K–12 is a comprehensive science curriculum platform designed to support rigorous, phenomenon-based learning for students across grade levels. The platform features a well-organized interface with intuitive navigation, persistent support resources, and robust SSO and LMS integrations, creating a reliable and efficient environment for both teachers and students. In support of the ISTE Standards for Students, the platform empowers learners to engage in iterative design processes, evaluate scientific evidence, decompose complex problems, and communicate their thinking through a range of digital tools and formats.

Learning design across the platform reflects strong research-aligned practices. Content is anchored in authentic, real-world phenomena that drive inquiry and sensemaking, and structured reflection prompts are embedded throughout lessons to help students revisit and refine their thinking over time. Teachers benefit from flexible content sequencing, modular lesson organization, and clear tools for differentiating instruction to meet student needs.

The platform also demonstrates a genuine commitment to inclusive and equitable learning through diverse, authentic representation in its content, multilingual accessibility features, text-to-speech with read-along highlighting, and student-level display customization. Assessment tools provide a range of formats for students to demonstrate understanding, while color-coded performance results and a student usage metrics dashboard



give teachers clear, actionable visibility into both achievement and engagement. Together, these features make the Activate Learning Certified Version of OpenSciEd K–12 a strong, well-rounded resource for districts seeking a science platform grounded in best practices for digital learning and inclusive pedagogy.