



ISTE Seal Review Findings Report

Apple Teacher

2024



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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 *Apple Teacher*?

Apple Teacher is a free professional learning program designed to support and celebrate educators using Apple products for teaching and learning. The self-paced journey starts with learning foundational skills on iPad and Mac. It continues with integrating Apple apps like Pages, Keynote, Numbers, GarageBand, and iMovie for teaching and learning into everyday lessons. With three levels of recognition to achieve, educators earn rewards for their best teaching — teaching that provides students with more connected, creative, collaborative, and personalized learning experiences. The program offers hands-on tutorials that make learning new skills easy and earning badges to become a recognized Apple Teacher. Educators also compile a portfolio throughout the learning modules to showcase their work as they create customized lessons and artifacts.

HOW IS *Apple Teacher* IMPLEMENTED?

Apple Teacher and Apple Teacher Portfolio are delivered online and accessible to anyone with a valid Apple ID. Apple Teacher instructional units can be tackled in any order, and there's no deadline for completing the work. Schools and districts can seamlessly integrate this system into their structured programs, providing flexibility and autonomy. While Apple awards certification to those who complete all the requirements, the assessment is based strictly on completion.



ISTE SEAL REVIEW

Product: Apple Teacher

Product Type: Professional Development

Organization: Apple

Date of Award: May 2024

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

Apple Teacher 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.

Learner 2.1.b

Pursue professional interests by creating and actively participating in local and global learning networks.

Collaborator 2.4.b

Collaborate and co-learn with students to discover and use new digital resources, and diagnose and troubleshoot technology issues.

Designer 2.5.a & 2.5.b


Use technology to create, adapt and personalize learning experiences that foster independent learning and accommodate learner differences and needs. Design authentic learning activities that align with content area standards and use digital tools and resources to maximize active, deep learning.

Facilitator 2.6.d

Model and nurture creativity and creative expression to communicate ideas, knowledge or connections.

Analyst 2.7.a

Provide alternative ways for students to demonstrate competency and reflect on their learning using technology.


FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Forum section of the Apple Education Community provides opportunities for teachers to connect, ask questions, share ideas, and learn from a global network of their peers who share their passions. • The guided tutorials show educators how to implement the apps and media tools with students and facilitate 	




<p>student-to-student sharing. Specifically, the tutorials on challenge-based learning introduce a strategy where students create challenges of interest, including identifying an essential question, conducting research, and developing an action plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities are open-ended and readily aligned with content area standards. The focus of the whole program is helping educators use technology to promote and support active, deep learning. • Throughout Apple Teacher tutorials and the Portfolio, teachers create sample student products that model creativity and creative expression. Examples and skill development provided are rich, well-designed, and adaptable to all grade levels. • Teachers learn and practice many ways that students can demonstrate competency by leveraging technology creatively, such as using a journal to encourage student reflection, project-based assessments, lab reports, and project plans. 	
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DIMENSION 1: USER INTERFACE AND AGENCY



Definition: The design of the product interface and user experience helps the learner quickly and reliably achieve professional growth goals. This dimension includes features related to interface design, learnability, navigation, maximizing time on task, control over actions, and general usability.

FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “Your Apple Teacher Journey” page is always featured front and center on the Learning Center landing page and serves as a starting point for each program level. Once inside a lesson, standard navigational systems are used that both encourage linear navigation but also allow for jumping around. • The platform has an intuitive interface design with colorful, well-sized icons and text labels at the top of the page. • Search function with built-in autosuggestions makes finding relevant content easy. 	




<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A link in the top navigation bar makes accessing help straightforward. The help center includes labeled chunks of information for tips, resources, FAQs, support videos, and an option to submit a support ticket. 	
<p>DIMENSION 2: LEARNING DESIGN</p> <p>Definition: The product has features that exhibit and promote the 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"> • For each tutorial, growth objectives are provided and connected to tools, content, and activities, and the portfolio provides structured opportunities for teachers to set professional learning goals as they progress through the tutorials and course content. • All foundational skills tutorials use consistent instructional design, including a short feature description, “try it” with guided steps, “apply it” to show how a teacher might use the skill in their classrooms, and “go further,” which provides advanced use cases. • Across all foundation tutorial pages, step-by-step text instructions are paired with screenshots or screen recordings showing the user exactly how to do the step. • Journals provide scaffolded note-taking opportunities, encouraging teachers to note or screenshot helpful tutorial steps and to record their ideas for applying what they are learning to their work. 	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p>DIMENSION 3: DIGITAL ANDRAGOGY</p> <p>Definition: The product is designed to support the development of professional digital learning capabilities, knowledge, and skills. This dimension focuses on how technology can help educators and coaches create the best possible learning experiences, including</p>	



the social and learning affordances that digital professional development products uniquely offer.	
FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activity and lesson examples across the Apple Teacher Portfolio present real-world examples for using skills learned across the iPad and Mac Foundations content and encourage remixing content to create new ideas. “Apple Teachers in Action” includes resources, lessons, and stories from teachers worldwide. These lessons connect to real-world experiences of teachers using the apps and tools in their classrooms. 	
<p>DIMENSION 4: INCLUSIVITY</p> <p>Definition: The product helps coaches provide scenarios and real-world examples so that educators can provide relevant learning experiences for interactions with people from many cultures, backgrounds, and abilities. Also creates and supports learner motivation and agency in the learning process.</p>	
FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Images and illustrations throughout the program represent educator and student diversity across age, skin tones, body shapes, gender expressions, and physical abilities. The Learning Center's Apple Teachers in Action section showcases educator-created lessons from around the world, highlighting ways of using Apple apps that reflect different cultural perspectives. The Challenge for Change collection in the Apple Education Community contains challenges with supporting resources and interactive journals for classes to develop empathy, build inclusive awareness, and create actionable changes in their communities. 	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site itself includes accessibility features such as closed captioning on videos and high-contrast design. The program content also instructs educators on using accessibility features in the Apple apps with students. 	
<p>DIMENSION 5: ASSESSMENT AND DATA</p> <p>Definition: The product uses formative classroom observations, self-assessments, and/or educator data – informs learning experiences that help make visible what the educators know and don’t yet know – to generate data that informs coaches and facilitators about teacher knowledge and skill gaps, and provide teacher assessment feedback that is specific, actionable, and constructive. As such, it guides coaches’ instructional decisions and educators’ learning journeys.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">FEEDBACK</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OUTCOME</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction text of every quiz reviews the essential skills from previous lessons that will be covered in the quiz, showing precise alignment between lesson content and assessments. The formative assessments across the program present varied question types, such as single-select, multi-select, drag & drop fill-in-the-blank, and drag & drop ordering. Teachers also gather artifacts and reflections in a portfolio to complete the program. Quiz feedback is thorough and immediate with details, and educators can retry quizzes multiple times. Educators may also take each quiz at any time, meaning they can skip tutorials for areas they already know or go back and review tutorials as needed. Teachers can track their progress toward badges using a dashboard, and they can download a PDF report that includes the dates each badge was earned. 	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

CONCLUSION

The Apple Teacher program offers educators a flexible and self-paced professional development opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills in utilizing Apple products for teaching and learning. Through a comprehensive curriculum comprising 120+ tutorials, educators are guided through various features and functionalities of Apple products, enhancing their proficiency in integrating these tools into instructional practices. The program's user-friendly interface and structured tutorials ensure easy navigation, allowing educators to engage with content and resources seamlessly. The program fosters inclusive and diverse learning experiences, with features like closed captioning, high contrast designs, and diverse imagery promoting accessibility and representation.

Throughout the program, educators are empowered to create meaningful learning experiences that cater to diverse student needs and promote active, deep learning. The curriculum emphasizes authentic and project-based assessments, providing educators with tools and strategies to facilitate personalized and creative learning opportunities using Apple tools. Additionally, the program encourages collaboration and networking among educators through various forums and professional learning communities, enabling knowledge sharing and collective growth. By completing the Apple Teacher program, educators not only acquire valuable skills in leveraging technology for teaching and learning but also become part of a vibrant community dedicated to innovation and excellence in education.