ISTE Seal Review Findings Report

Book Creator

2025

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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 *Book Creator*?

Book Creator is a digital creativity tool that empowers students and teachers to create, share, and publish multimedia books. The platform combines design tools with publishing capabilities, allowing users to incorporate text, images, audio, video, and interactive elements into their digital books. Book Creator emphasizes creative expression while supporting literacy development and digital storytelling across all subject areas and age groups.

HOW IS *Book Creator* IMPLEMENTED?

Teachers implement Book Creator as a creation tool in K-12 classrooms. The platform integrates with popular learning management systems and other tools and provides templates and guides to support various learning objectives. Students can work independently or collaboratively to create digital books, portfolios, journals, and presentations. Teachers can provide real-time feedback, manage student work, and publish student creations to a classroom library for sharing and celebration.

ISTE SEAL REVIEW

Product: Book Creator
Product Type: Creativity Tool
Organization: Tools for Schools
Date of Award: January 2025

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

Book Creator 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
Students set learning goals, develop strategies leveraging technology to achieve them and reflect on the learning process to improve learning outcomes. Students use technology to seek feedback that informs and improves their practice and to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.

Knowledge Constructor 1.2.a, 1.3.c & 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
Students know and use a deliberate design process for generating ideas, testing theories, creating innovative artifacts or solving authentic problems.

Creative Communicator 1.6.a, 1.6.b, 1.6.c & 1.6.d
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.d
Students explore local and global issues, and use collaborative technologies to work with others to investigate solutions.

Exemplar Summary
As part of their ISTE Seal submission, Book Creator provided two exemplar artifacts to demonstrate authentic uses for the tool aligned to the ISTE Standards for Students. For example, the first exemplar showed a student group project about planning and sharing podcasts. Through this project, students used a Book Creator template to guide them through creating a podcast, curating resources, and reflecting on the process. View the full projects at this link.

FEEDBACK	OUTCOME

FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
- Within the digital book, teachers embedded opportunities for students to track their goals, update project checklists, and evaluate success criteria. - Students worked from the teacher-provided template to repurpose and modify the content to showcase their projects. This template provided a framework and scaffolding, increasing student agency. - Students worked collaboratively with their group members to create a podcast. The book provided a way to easily share their process and final product. - This project exemplifies many of the ISTE Standards for Students and demonstrates how Book Creator can be a hub for successful technology implementation, fostering creativity, communication, and collaboration for students of all ages and abilities.	✓

Dimension 1: User Interface and Agency

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.

FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
- Numerous onboarding supports, including "getting started" tutorials and dialogue boxes, guide users through new features. - The navigation is straightforward, providing a seamless user experience with titles displayed prominently at the top of each page. - The interface features consistently sized buttons with frequently used actions easily accessible.	✓

FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
• Many external apps integrate with Book Creator, and the product page indicates how to use and integrate with these apps.	

DIMENSION 2: LEARNING DESIGN

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.

FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
• The comprehensive library created by Book Creator provides customizable resources about a wide variety of subjects. • Built-in templates enable student reflection throughout the creation process. • Varied design choices allow teachers to customize activities based on student needs. • Teachers can embed formative check-ins to ensure students have regular opportunities to demonstrate understanding.	✓

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
• The STEM Notebook series includes a design thinking notebook that guides students through the engineering design process.	✓

FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
• Templates help students organize and reference information effectively, and teachers can create activities that guide students in solution development. • Collaboration features encourage students to collaborate in real-time and provide feedback to their peers.	

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
• Closed captioning and speed control for audio and video are easy to find. • Key functions throughout the tool use high contrast design. • Monthly activity journals provide many opportunities for students to explore individual differences, and the library of social and emotional learning (SEL) books focus on considering people's differences as strengths.	✓

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
• Teachers can create and embed formative assessments directly into digital books.	✓

• Teachers have many options to provide feedback to students, including text, video, and audio. • Teachers can view student submissions in real-time, and students can easily view, share, and edit their work.	

CONCLUSION

Book Creator offers an intuitive digital creation platform that combines ease of use with pedagogical purpose. The platform's strength lies in its user-friendly interface, featuring clear navigation and comprehensive onboarding through tutorials, a dedicated "Learn" tab, and contextual guidance. This thoughtful design ensures both teachers and students can quickly begin creating meaningful digital content.

The product supports content creation through its multimedia toolkit, enabling students and educators to incorporate text, images, videos, audio recordings, and drawings into their work. This versatility, combined with an extensive template library and customizable resources, allows students to express their learning creatively while meeting educational objectives. Teachers can seamlessly integrate both formative and summative assessments, create detailed rubrics, and provide targeted feedback directly within student work, creating a continuous cycle of improvement and learning. Book Creator's commitment to authentic learning shines through specialized resources like the STEM Notebook series and Design Thinking activities.

Book Creator's alignment with the ISTE Standards for Students is evident in how students can personalize their creative process and share their understanding through multiple modalities. Through its creation tools and collaborative features, Book Creator stands as an exemplary solution for educators seeking to help students transform from content consumers into confident digital creators.
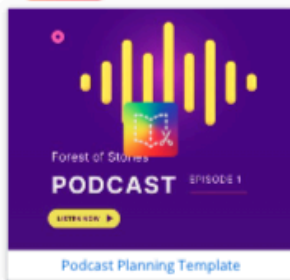
Exemplars: ISTE Standards in Action

See the full projects at this link.

Exemplar 1: Planning and Sharing Podcasts

Innovative Designer

1.4.a Students know and use a deliberate design process for generating ideas, testing theories, creating innovative artifacts or solving authentic problems.

Through the planning and creation of podcasts, students exemplified both creativity and innovation.

The project was thoughtfully scaffolded to guide them through each phase of the podcast design process, allowing students to develop a media product (artifact) that was not only imaginative but also purposeful and aligned with clear success criteria.

This structured approach empowered students to think critically, make intentional design choices, and ensure that their final podcasts were both engaging and functional.

Forest of Stories
PODCAST EPISODE 1
Podcast Planning Template

Exemplar 1: Planning and Sharing Podcasts

Creative Communicator

1.6.b Original and Remixed Works Students create original works or responsibly repurpose or remix digital resources into new creations.

Students used a pre-designed template in Book Creator to organize and plan their podcasts but remixed it by adding their observations, questions, and research. They adapted the templates to fit their needs by integrating multimedia elements such as recorded voice notes, speech-to-text, and video links.

Podcast Planning Gro... | Podcast Planning Gro... | Podcast Planning Gro... | Podcast Planning ...
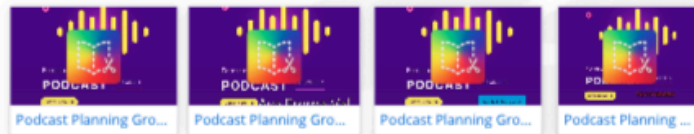
They then collected all their podcasts into one book as a class where they could be listened to by classmates, as well as parents at the Podcast cafe.

Forest of Stories Podcast