



# ISTE Seal Review Findings Report

**ClassMate by  
World Book**

2026

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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 *ClassMate*?**

ClassMate by World Book is an adolescent literacy solution built on fact-checked, high-quality content of nearly a million pieces of content. Designed for use across all subjects, ClassMate's small-language model AI integrates informational reading with nearly 50 research-backed literacy strategies and graphic organizers to embed literacy instruction in content-area teaching. Just-in-time scaffolds and differentiation tools for students make grade-level content accessible to all students.

### **HOW IS *ClassMate* IMPLEMENTED?**

ClassMate provides teachers with a vast library of content that can be easily integrated into daily instruction, offering flexible implementation options for whole-class lessons, small group activities, individual homework, exit tickets, and more.



## ISTE SEAL REVIEW

**Product:** ClassMate

**Product Type:** Curriculum

**Organization:** World Book

**Date of Award:** March 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

ClassMate 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.c, 1.1.d**

Students use technology to seek feedback that informs and improves their practice and to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways. Students understand fundamental concepts of how technology works, demonstrate the ability to choose and use current technologies effectively, and are adept at thoughtfully exploring emerging technologies.

### **Digital Citizen 1.2.a, 1.2.b, 1.2.d**

Students manage their digital identity and understand the lasting impact of their online behaviors on themselves and others and make safe, legal and ethical decisions in the digital world. Students demonstrate empathetic, inclusive interactions online and use technology to responsibly contribute to their communities. Students take action to protect their digital privacy on devices and manage their personal data and security while online.




<p><b>Knowledge Constructor 1.3.d</b> Students build knowledge by exploring real-world issues and gain experience in applying their learning in authentic settings.</p>	
<p><b>Innovative Designer 1.4.d</b> Students exhibit a tolerance for ambiguity, perseverance and the capacity to work with open-ended problems.</p>	
<p><b>Computational Thinker 1.5.c</b> Students break problems into component parts, extract key information and develop descriptive models to understand complex systems or facilitate problem-solving.</p>	
FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AI-powered Nudge tool engages students in active self-assessment through comprehension checks, word challenges, and on-demand support..</li> <li>• Dedicated lessons address multiple aspects of digital citizenship, including the effects of cyberbullying, online privacy protection, and social media regulation, deepening students' awareness of their digital responsibilities and the permanence of online actions.</li> <li>• Assignments consistently engage students with real-world problems, guiding them to gather relevant information, think through possible solutions, and connect learning to contexts beyond the classroom.</li> <li>• Complex, open-ended problems, with built-in supports scaffold student thinking as they navigate ambiguity and work toward solutions.</li> </ul>	



### 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built-in tooltips and guided features support immediate engagement upon login, enabling users to begin working with content right away.</li> <li>• Important elements are prominently displayed on each page, and buttons and interactive elements are sized consistently and appropriately throughout the interface.</li> <li>• Both keyword search and quick search functions allow users to locate specific content and resources efficiently.</li> <li>• The support button is prominently placed and clearly labeled, and the support page offers a live chat feature and easy access to platform documentation.</li> <li>• The data privacy policy is clearly published on the support page, with a thorough overview of how student data privacy requirements are addressed.</li> </ul>	



**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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning objectives are clearly stated at the start of each assignment, and guiding questions are prominently featured to orient students throughout the lesson.</li> <li>• A modular structure allows teachers to drag, drop, and reorder content—mixing and matching lessons to create customized sequences that align with classroom needs.</li> <li>• Concrete visual examples and descriptive language illustrate concepts throughout lessons, supporting student comprehension.</li> <li>• Graphic organizers carry entered information forward throughout the lesson, encouraging students to build on prior thinking and engage in elaborative reflection.</li> </ul>	

**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"> <li>• Real-world problems requiring critical thinking and original solutions are central to the learning design, and guided supports help students apply learning and make meaningful connections beyond the classroom.</li> <li>• Guided graphic organizers help students break down complex problems, identify key information, plan solutions step by step, and reflect on their problem-solving process.</li> <li>• Activities require students to find and evaluate information for credibility, relevance, and perspective, with interface elements that help students reference the sources they use.</li> <li>• Lessons on intellectual property, including copyright and responsible use of digital resources, are integrated throughout the curriculum, with embedded assessments and reflection activities that reinforce digital identity concepts.</li> </ul>	

**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"> <li>• Content is intentionally designed to serve as “windows and mirrors,” regularly encouraging students to consider perspectives beyond their own and place themselves in others’ experiences.</li> <li>• Closed captions display by default, speed control is available for both narration and video content, and color contrast throughout the interface meets accessibility standards.</li> <li>• Lessons on marginalized and oppressed groups prominently feature explicit engagement with systemic oppression and built-in reflection activities that prompt students to process and respond to these themes.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>DIMENSION 5: ASSESSMENT AND DATA</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p>	
FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formative assessments are embedded throughout lessons, with clear alignment between learning objectives and the assessments used to measure them.</li> </ul>	



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A variety of assessment types is available across the platform and well-matched to the content, topic, and target audience.</li><li>• The process for submitting work artifacts is consistent and clearly communicated across all lessons, with students able to submit in multiple formats, access all submitted work, download their work, and share as needed.</li><li>• The assignment dashboard gives teachers a clear view of submission status and allows filtering by complete or incomplete to support efficient progress monitoring.</li></ul> |  |
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## CONCLUSION

ClassMate offers educators a purposefully designed platform that integrates AI-powered support with informational literacy instruction, providing an accessible and engaging learning environment for students. The platform's intuitive interface featuring a clearly organized navigation menu and prominently placed support resources enables teachers and students to engage with content efficiently from the outset. Built-in tooltips, customizable lesson sequences, and a student view preview feature give educators the tools they need to design and monitor learning experiences with confidence.

The curriculum's modular structure and graphic organizer-driven learning design reflect strong alignment with learning science principles. Content is thoughtfully chunked, objectives are clearly stated, and related materials appear adjacent to activities—minimizing cognitive load while supporting deeper processing. Teachers can reorder and customize lessons to meet the specific needs of their classrooms, while students benefit from a consistent workflow that carries their thinking forward across reflection activities.

Lessons grounded in real-world problems and open-ended questions invite students to engage in authentic inquiry, building the skills to gather and evaluate information, navigate ambiguity, and develop reasoned solutions. Dedicated content on cyberbullying, online privacy, and social media regulation, combined with lessons that center marginalized voices, positions the platform as a meaningful contributor to students' civic and ethical development. The content is intentionally framed to serve as both windows

and mirrors, encouraging empathy and perspective-taking as core components of the learning experience.

Assessment and data capabilities support a coherent feedback loop between instruction and student progress. Formative assessments aligned to learning objectives appear throughout lessons, offering varied question types suited to the content. The assignment dashboard provides teachers with clear visibility into submission status, while students benefit from a straightforward submission process that allows them to access, download, and share their work. ClassMate's instructional design, AI-enhanced supports, and attention to digital citizenship and inclusivity make it a compelling platform for fostering literacy growth across the curriculum.