ISTE Seal Review Findings Report

Colleague AI

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 *Colleague AI*?

Colleague AI is a an educational platform where AI assistants act as knowledgeable colleagues for educators and friendly buddies for learners. It aims to foster a dynamic, collaborative, and personalized educational experience for its users. The product features combine artificial intelligence (AI) with research-validated pedagogical approaches, making Colleague AI relevant for instruction, individualized learning, professional development, and school management.

HOW IS *Colleague AI* IMPLEMENTED?

For educators, Colleague AI streamlines lesson planning, formative assessment and AI-assisted grading, professional learning, and many other tasks that require a knowledgeable colleague to assist.

For students, Colleague AI serves as a personal learning companion, offering instant tutoring on any confusing questions, personalizing learning content and activities, and enhancing teacher-student interactions in a collaborative learning environment.

For school leaders, Colleague AI offers data insights about educators' needs and student learning, supports data-driven school management, facilitates communication with stakeholders, and automates routine tasks to allow administrators more time for strategic planning.

ISTE SEAL REVIEW

Product: Colleague AI
Product Type: Platform
Organization: Colleague AI
Date of Award: January 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

Colleague AI 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
Students connect their learning needs, strengths and interests to their goals and use technology to help achieve them and reflect on their progress.

Empowered Learner 1.1.c
Students use technology to seek feedback that informs and improves their practice and to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.

Digital Citizen 1.2.a
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.

Creative Communicator 1.6.b
Students create original works or responsibly repurpose or remix digital resources into new creations.

FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
- The AI Tutor supports student goal setting by providing resources and guidance aligned to individual learning objectives, while teacher-created assignments can incorporate structured reflection on progress toward those goals. - The AI Grader delivers immediate, detailed feedback that identifies both strengths and areas for improvement, helping learners refine their work and track progress between submissions. - A student-facing Conversation Log with automated summaries increases transparency around AI interactions, allowing reflection on how digital identity develops through platform use within the school context. The Student AI Use Toolkit provides	✓

additional guidance on managing these digital interactions responsibly.	
● Students can attach materials to the AI Tutor, which supports the process of adapting and transforming existing resources into new creations.	

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
● The product is straightforward to learn, with minimal time and effort required to begin using its core functionality. For more complex workflows like lesson generation, the platform provides tool tips and information icons in context to guide first-time users. ● An intuitive layout and clear navigation support a smooth user experience. ● Embedded search filters such as type, grade, subject, and standards, allow users to narrow results efficiently. ● Teachers can see what students see by using the "Preview as Student" button, available from any student-facing resource in the teacher's dashboard. ● The privacy policy outlines how student data is collected, used, and protected, explained in straightforward terms rather than technical jargon.	✓

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
• Teachers must describe a learning objective when creating materials, ensuring that generated resources directly tie instructional content and activities to those stated objectives from the outset. • Students move step by step through concepts, responding to clear prompts appropriate to their age and ability. • The platform presents information in different ways until comprehension is demonstrated rather than allowing passive progression. • Teachers can generate custom interactive activities and assessments through platform tools, and content is modular and can be shared via direct weblinks. • Lesson plans generated by AI consistently integrate real-world applications, which allow learners to connect abstract concepts to practical situations.	✓

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
• Depending on how a teacher structures the prompts they write, the platform can produce activities and assessments that engage students in real-world problems, and they can repurpose and interact with the resources they find.	✓

• Within the platform, students can flag their teacher directly, which creates a channel for immediate collaboration, and students and teachers can easily share materials with each other.	

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
• Support videos include closed captioning and playback speed controls, ensuring that users with hearing needs or different processing preferences can engage with the material effectively. • The platform interface demonstrates attention to color contrast in key functions, with clear button design and high-visibility labeling.	✓

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
• Formative assessments can be created directly within the platform and tied to specific lesson plans, ensuring alignment with stated learning objectives. • Rubrics can be developed easily, allowing teachers to specify grading criteria and standards.	✓

• The "Submit Your Response" tool that students use to complete assignments allows them to respond in a variety of formats, including by provided text box, attached links, and uploaded files. • Detailed, instant feedback goes beyond correct/incorrect answers to include justification for scores along with specific student strengths and actionable improvement areas. • The Student Growth Insights Dashboard provides teachers with a clear view of key metrics, including student questions, engagement levels, and interests.	

CONCLUSION

Colleague AI offers educators a comprehensive AI-powered platform that addresses time-intensive instructional tasks through lesson material generation, rubric creation, and AI-assisted grading. The intuitive layout features embedded search filters and clear navigation that support smooth user experience. Support videos include closed captioning and playback speed controls to accommodate diverse needs, and the privacy policy explains data collection and protection in straightforward terms that help users understand how student information is handled.

The platform emphasizes personalized learning through its AI Tutor, which supports goal setting by providing resources aligned to individual learning objectives. Rather than allowing passive progression, interactive conversations require participation from students and present information in different ways until comprehension is demonstrated. The AI Grader delivers immediate, detailed feedback that goes beyond correct/incorrect answers to include justification for scores along with specific strengths and actionable improvement areas, helping learners understand not just what they got right or wrong but why. The Conversation Log with automated summaries increases transparency around AI interactions, allowing reflection on how digital identity develops through platform use.

Additionally, the platform enables flexibility in content creation and resource adaptation that supports both original work and thoughtful remixing. Attaching materials to the AI Tutor allows students to transform existing resources into new creations, while the platform's generative capabilities help produce original works that blend provided content with creative elements. Direct flagging and sharing mechanisms facilitate immediate collaboration between students and teachers, creating channels for real-time communication on learning activities. The Student Growth Insights Dashboard provides clear views of key metrics including questions, engagement levels, and interests that guide instructional decisions. Colleague AI demonstrates how technology can streamline educator workflows while supporting personalized, data-informed learning experiences that maintain focus on student growth and instructional quality.