



ISTE Seal Review Findings Report

EdOptions
Academy

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 *EdOptions Academy*?

EdOptions Academy is a leading provider of online education for K-12 students. Their platform offers a variety of courses that cater to the unique needs of every student, regardless of their grade level or learning style. The program offers over 500 core, AP®, CTE, and NCAA®-approved courses taught by certified educators specializing in virtual instruction. They also provide personalized instruction and support to ensure that each student has a successful learning experience. Whether you are a parent looking for an alternative to traditional schooling or a student seeking to supplement your education, EdOptions Academy has the resources you need to achieve your academic goals.

The fully accredited EdOptions Academy keeps students engaged, connected, and educated. Through EdOptions Academy approaches school and district leaders are provided opportunities to meet the needs of students through online approaches, which encourage personalization and educational flexibility. Whether expanding a few courses or creating a whole online program for students, EdOptions has solutions.

HOW IS *EdOptions Academy* IMPLEMENTED?

EdOptions Academy's virtual, human-centered instruction combines K-12 learning technology with state-certified teachers to provide sustainable, in-district programs that offer student learning options. EdOptions Academy helps schools and districts meet the evolving needs of students with two customizable approaches. In the Flexible Virtual Learning model, K-12 students decide what, how, and when school takes place, allowing them to learn anytime, anywhere. The Enhanced Virtual Learning model aligns with a school's bell schedule with live, synchronous 6–12 virtual instruction, accommodating full course loads of students and helping to address the impact of teacher shortages.



ISTE SEAL REVIEW

Product: EdOptions Academy

Product Type: Curriculum

Organization: Edmentum

Date of Award: March 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

EdOptions Academy 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.

Digital Citizen 1.2.c

Students demonstrate an understanding of and respect for the rights and obligations of using and sharing intellectual property.

Knowledge Constructor 1.3.a


Students plan and employ effective research strategies to locate information and other resources for their intellectual or creative pursuits.

Knowledge Constructor 1.3.b

Students evaluate the accuracy, perspective, credibility and relevance of information, media, data or other resources.

Knowledge Constructor 1.3.d

Students build knowledge by actively exploring real-world issues and problems, developing ideas and theories, and pursuing answers and solutions.


FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curricular resources discuss proper citation and how to avoid plagiarism, giving credit to authors and feedback to students as they build their assignments. In upper-grade level units, students learn techniques for utilizing search engines and databases of academic journals and primary sources and have the opportunity to put research into practice. Across grade levels, students learn how to evaluate websites with a series of criteria. 	



- Scaffolded resources assist students in how to gather information online for research purposes.


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"> • Guided walkthroughs and resources help a new user navigate the site, which makes onboarding easy. • The breadcrumb navigation for the teacher and student experience is well-designed and consistent, allowing users always to know where they are in the product. • Interface design reflects user needs with buttons sized age-appropriately and consistently with essential information displayed at the center of the page. • The help button is clearly marked and visible on every page, enabling a search for helpful guides and connection with the customer support team. 	

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"> • Learning outcomes align to content, with the youngest students receiving additional visual support through icons and limited text. 	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content is varied and adapted to the student's age level. Some lessons include the same content with different formats including animations for younger students and real-life visuals for older students. • Modular content allows teachers to customize students' learning paths and add additional lessons to support individual student learning needs. • Relatable content is aligned to instructional outcomes and rooted in real-world scenarios. 	
<p>DIMENSION 3: DIGITAL PEDAGOGY</p> <p>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.</p>	
FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real-world prompts are age-appropriate and provide opportunities for open-ended creativity and critical thinking. • Extension activities designed for one-to-one, group, or the whole class align with students' learning paths and provide opportunities for students to define problems and develop plans for solving them. • Students learn about media literacy and how to find relevant information through embedded lessons throughout the platform. 	
<p>DIMENSION 4: INCLUSIVITY</p> <p>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.</p>	



FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characters and images presented in the curriculum represent various demographic groups. • Activities develop empathy through engaging students to examine multiple perspectives while encouraging a growth mindset. • Multiple accessibility tools are utilized, including support for nearly 20 languages, text-to-speech reader, speed control, and the ability of the user to change display settings, among many others. 	
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"> • Formative assessments such as practice items, practice checks, and unscored tutorials align with the learning objectives and allow students to practice skills throughout the lessons. • The platform offers a variety of question types, including drag and drop, open response, multiple choice, and many others. • Students receive instant feedback on practice quizzes along with encouraging comments. • Reports include assessment and progress results organized by individual students and classes. 	



CONCLUSION

EdOptions Academy stands out for its adaptive curriculum, user-friendly interface, and learning design. Addressing a crucial problem in education, it offers flexibility with anytime, anywhere access and varied content options. Noteworthy is the thoughtful consideration of developmental needs across grade levels. The platform provides additional visual support to the youngest learners and a range of accessibility tools for all students.

Educators benefit from diverse assignment and reporting options, and students can approach learning through various content choices, revisiting as needed for mastery. Concrete real-world examples provide structure, while virtual manipulatives enhance hands-on learning. EdOptions Academy also facilitates immediate feedback supporting personalized learning through various assessment types. Concepts are grounded in authentic problems, engaging students at their level.

In summary, EdOptions Academy stands out as an exceptional K-12 education solution. Its state-of-the-art curriculum is tailored to each student's learning style. Additionally, its incorporation of practical elements, such as immediate feedback and industry-relevant connections, further elevates its effectiveness for both teachers and students.