International Society for Technology in Education

ISTE SEAL OF ALIGNMENT REVIEW FINDINGS REPORT

Edmentum EdOptions Academy

APRIL 2020

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ABOUT

ABOUT ISTE

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) is the premier nonprofit membership organization serving educators and education leaders. ISTE is committed to empowering connected learners in a connected world and serves more than 100,000 education stakeholders throughout the world.

As the creator and steward of the definitive education technology standards, our mission is to empower learners to nourish in a connected world by cultivating a passionate professional learning community, linking educators and partners, leveraging knowledge and expertise, advocating for strategic policies, and continually improving learning and teaching

ISTE SEAL OF ALIGNMENT

Resources and products designed with the ISTE Standards in mind are choosing to demonstrate their commitment to support critical digital age learning skills and knowledge. Regardless of a solution's intended grade level, purpose or content area, by addressing the ISTE Standards and earning a Seal of Alignment, a solution is shown to consciously, purposefully and meaningfully support best practices for digital age teaching and learning.

ISTE considers a solution aligned to the ISTE Standards only after an extensive review conducted by trained ISTE Seal of Alignment reviewers, and it has been determined to meet all critical elements of a particular standard indicator in accordance with specific review criteria.

By earning a Seal of Alignment, ISTE verifies that this product:

- Promotes critical technology skills.
- Supports the use of technology in appropriate ways.
- Contributes to the pedagogically robust use of technology for teaching and learning.
- Aligns to the ISTE Standards in specific ways as described in the review finding report.

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

WHAT IS EDOPTIONS?

EdOptions is a comprehensive catalog of rigorous, research-based curricula. The program offers schools a variety of implementation models that may be customized for any learning context. As a fully online delivery platform, teachers and students do not participate in any face-to-face learning. Most learning activities are completed asynchronously, although there is an option for students and teachers to meet synchronously.

EdOptions is very invested in creating relationships between the teacher and the student through their virtual tools and is structured in such a way as to focus on the individual learning needs of each student.

HOW IS EDOPTIONS IMPLEMENTED?

Courses are facilitated by certified teachers employed a “flipped” instructional model where students work independently through online material and consult with instructors around specific assignments for guidance and assistance.

Courses are structured around online tutorials that include slides with embedded text, graphics, and audio video clips through which students navigate to complete activities and unit projects.

ISTE SEAL OF ALIGNMENT REVIEW

Product: EdOptions
Organization: Edmentum
Date of Award: April 2020

REVIEW METHODOLOGY

ISTE Seal of Alignment reviews are conducted by a panel of education and instructional experts. Reviewers use data collected both separately and collectively to determine how a solution addresses specific elements described in each of the indicators of the ISTE Standards. Special instruments are used by reviewers to collect data on potential alignment across all resource materials. Alignment is determined based on the extent to which all or some of specific elements are addressed within the materials. Reviewers conduct regular calibrations to assure the validity and reliability of the results and final review findings are combined for an overall score for alignment on each individual indicator.

During the review process for EdOptions Academy, reviewers:

- Collected data on when and how each activity addressed specific skills and knowledge described in the ISTE Standards for Students at either a foundational or applied level
- Compiled findings to determine overall alignment across all ISTE Student standards and indicators.
- Used aggregate findings to form the basis of the overall alignment results.

SCOPE OF REVIEW

Edmentum provided a Self Pre-Assessment that reflects alignment of their content to all ISTE Standards for Students. Twenty courses were submitted for review which is a subset of their much larger catalog. The review process looked at each of the courses for evidence of alignment to the ISTE Standards for Students. Within the courses, ISTE reviewers looked for activities, prompts, and intentional engagement with the content that demonstrated evidence of the Standards.

REVIEW FINDINGS

EdOptions was found to address the ISTE Standards for Students in the following ways:

- Foundational – Resources and activities aligned at the *Foundational* level primarily focus on skills and knowledge that facilitate skill acquisition to eventually meet ISTE Standard indicators.
- Applied – Resources and activities aligned at the *Applied* level primarily focus on practical, real-world, and/or relevant opportunities to practice the skills and knowledge learned in the curriculum.

ISTE Standards for Students							
	Standard 1 **Empowered Learner**	Standard 2 **Digital Citizen**	Standard 3 **Knowledge Constructor**	Standard 4 **Innovative Designer**	Standard 5 **Computational Thinker**	Standard 6 **Creative Communicator**	Standard 7 **Global Collaborator**
Indicator A							
Indicator B							
Indicator C							
Indicator D							

Foundational resources and activities focus primarily on knowledge that facilitates skills acquisition to eventually meet ISTE Standards indicators.

Applied resources and activities focus primarily on practical, real-world and/or relevant opportunities to practice the skills and knowledge learned in the curriculum.

ISTE Standard	Foundational Finding Statement	Applied Finding Statement
1. Empowered Learner		
1.a. Articulate and set personal learning goals, develop strategies leveraging technology to achieve them and reflect on the learning process itself to improve learning outcomes.	Tools available to reach out to tutors and review skills. Every assessment activity includes a reflection. This helps students monitor their learning progress.	
1.b. Build networks and customize their learning environments in ways that support the learning process.	Videoconferencing and email/text are built in structures; Teachers may use tools to include some synchronous learning.	
1.c. Use technology to seek feedback that informs and improves their practice and to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.	As an online learning platform, the implementation strategy promotes multiple points of student - teacher feedback. It is	

	not evident that students provide feedback to one another.	
1.d. Understand the fundamental concepts of technology operations, demonstrate the ability to choose, use and troubleshoot current technologies and are able to transfer their knowledge to explore emerging technologies.		Students are provided with a number of options within specific activities; students must be able to navigate the platform, learning options; and tools for communication and management of learning
2. Digital Citizen		
2.a. Cultivate and manage their digital identity and reputation and are aware of the permanence of their actions in the digital world.	Social Media course explores issues of digital identity and its impact on society.	
2.b. Engage in positive, safe, legal and ethical behavior when using technology, including social interactions online or when using networked devices.	Student Code of Conduct and AUPs set expectations; No direct interaction with the issues of digital identify are offered.	
3. Knowledge Constructor		
3.a. Plan and employ effective research strategies to locate information and other resources for their intellectual or creative pursuits.		Students are provided with multiple opportunities to research and locate information.
3.c. Curate information from digital resources using a variety of tools and methods to create collections of artifacts that demonstrate meaningful connections or conclusions.	Multiple research tasks ask students to curate information and make connections.	
3.d. Build knowledge by actively exploring real-world issues and problems, developing ideas and theories and pursuing answers and solutions.	Most tasks connect to real-life situations but at a low level (BLOOMS, DOK) summarizing or explaining.	
4. Innovative Designer		

5. Computational Thinker		
5.a. Formulate problem definitions suited for technology-assisted methods such as data analysis, abstract models and algorithmic thinking in exploring and finding solutions.	Introductory exploration of technology-assisted methods In Computer Science and various manufacturing courses.	
5.b. Collect data or identify relevant data sets, use digital tools to analyze them, and represent data in various ways to facilitate problem-solving and decision-making.	Math courses present a number of tools for representing and analyzing data.	
5.c. Break problems into component parts, extract key information, and develop descriptive models to understand complex systems or facilitate problem-solving.	Math tools guide students to break problems down into parts.	
5.d. Understand how automation works and use algorithmic thinking to develop a sequence of steps to create and test automated solutions.	Computer science, manufacturing, engineering courses introduce automation as a strategy for productivity.	
6. Creative Communicator		
6.a. Choose the appropriate platforms and tools for meeting the desired objectives of their creation or communication.	Students demonstrate new learning through creating new works. Many include the repurposing of digital resources.	
6.b. Create original works or responsibly repurpose or remix digital resources into new creations.	Students are asked to synthesize information and communicate ideas effectively.	
6.c. Communicate complex ideas clearly and effectively by creating or using a variety of digital objects such as visualizations, models or simulations.	Assignments in multiple courses specify different audiences; social media, research, etc	
6.d. Publish or present content that customizes the message and medium for their intended audiences.	Assignments in multiple courses specify different audiences; social media, research, etc	

7. Global Collaborator		
7.a. Use digital tools to connect with learners from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, engaging with them in ways that broaden mutual understanding and learning.	Synchronous and asynchronous tools are available in every course and can be sued at the discretion of the students or teacher.	
7.b. Use collaborative technologies to work with others, including peers, experts or community members, to examine issues and problems from multiple viewpoints.	Teachers are able to schedule collaborative projects/activities, but it is not a required part of the course syllabus. The platform allows for this type of learning experience.	

CONCLUSION

The EdOptions Academy courses are cleanly designed, easy to navigate and use with high quality media content. Information is clearly presented, and with the combination of text and media elements, courses are engaging and grade-appropriate. As expected with an online delivery system, technology use is pervasive within every course. The platform provides a wide variety of tools (i.e. language translator, calculator, dictionary, graphing tools, notebook, table maker, discussion forum, word processor, etc.) which students utilize in the completion of course assignments, lessons, and unit projects.

EdOptions does an excellent job of aligning to key concepts and ideas within the standards while delivering core content. This audit review confirms that EdOptions offers students a varied, flexible learning environment which allows schools and school districts to customize the delivery of content to meet the needs of each student.

Even though the development of student technology skills is not a deliberate focus, student technology use throughout the platform is sufficiently wide, deep, and meaningful that ISTE reviewers determined that EdOptions Academy helps build and foster a useful foundation of technology skills for students.