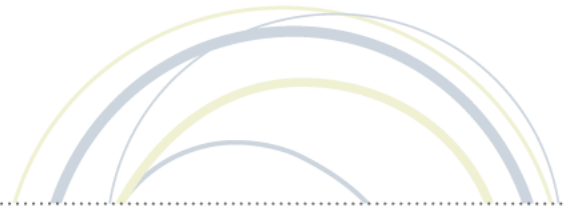




# ISTE SEAL OF ALIGNMENT REVIEW FINDINGS REPORT

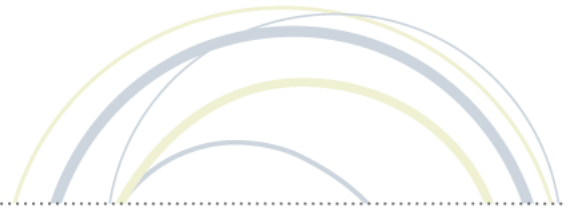
Keyboarding Without Tears

FEBRUARY 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 flourish 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.

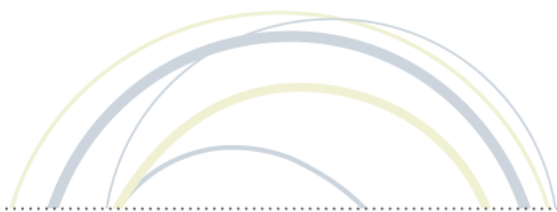
### **ISTE SEAL OF ALIGNMENT**

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 KEYBOARDING WITHOUT TEARS?

Keyboarding Without Tears is a web-based keyboarding curriculum designed specifically for elementary age students to build touch typing speed and fluency, digital citizenship, and computer readiness. The stated mission is to build confidence and develop students' skills while navigating cross-curricular topics based on appropriate grade level content. The game-based lessons are curated with the company's proprietary content. Keyboarding Without Tears makes it easy for students to learn keyboarding and pre-keyboarding skills needed to succeed in any assignment, in any setting.

Teachers have the flexibility to differentiate the experience for each student by skipping lessons, allowing students to work from home, creating activities with customized content, or backing up to redo previously taught lessons.

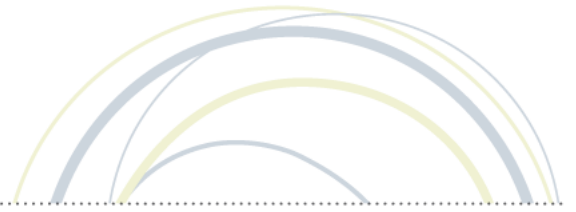
### HOW IS KEYBOARDING WITHOUT TEARS IMPLEMENTED?

Keyboarding Without Tears presents a continuum of skill-building activities that are age- and skill-appropriate for students in each target grade. Most activities two general categories:

- Drill and practice exercises designed to develop effective use of the keyboard in a touch-typing system.
- Typing exercises – words, sentences, or paragraphs – that combine and employ the skills developed in drill and practice activities.

The exercises are varied and engaging and provide stimulating contexts that keep the practice from becoming drudgery. There are also teacher-led lessons each week that can be used to teach digital citizenship or reinforce keyboarding skills.

The teacher-led component is optional, and teachers are free to pick and choose which lessons they want to use. Most digital citizenship themes (e.g., *Follow the Rules*, *My Digital Impression*, *Password Privacy and Power*) are reinforced throughout primary grade levels with an increasing level of depth or sophistication. Assessments are given at intervals throughout the program, primarily as a means of giving both teachers and students feedback on progress made thus far. A sophisticated data management system gives teachers detailed information about student progress and can be viewed by individuals and aggregated into groups.



## ISTE SEAL OF ALIGNMENT REVIEW

**Product:** Keyboarding Without Tears  
**Organization:** Learning Without Tears  
**Date of Award:** February 2020

### REVIEW METHODOLOGY

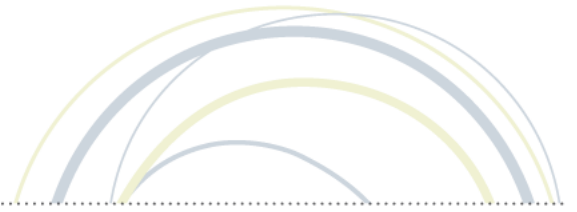
ISTE Seal of Alignment reviews are conducted by a panel of education and instructional experts. Reviewers use data collected both separately and collectively to determine how a solution addresses specific elements described in each of the indicators of the ISTE Standards. Special instruments are used 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 Keyboarding Without Tears, 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

Keyboarding Without Tears was reviewed for alignment against the ISTE Standards for Students. After becoming familiar with and exploring the variety of keyboarding activities available throughout the curriculum and determining what kinds of technology skills and dispositions were developed by Keyboarding Without Tears, ISTE reviewers downloaded and examined the teacher guides for each grade level and examined all of the digital citizenship lessons and activities.



## REVIEW FINDINGS

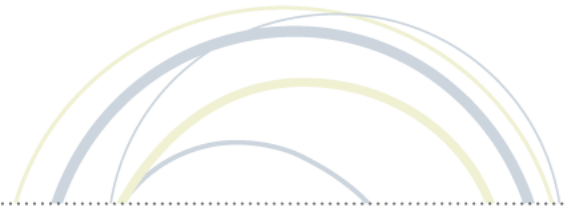
Keyboarding Without Tears was found to address the ISTE Standards for Students in the following ways:

- 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.

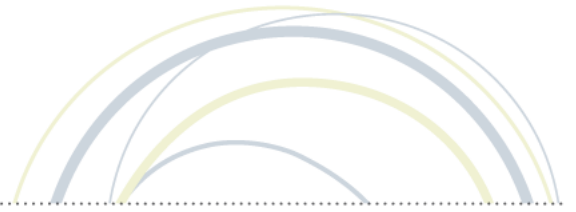
Keyboarding Without Tears badges were found to address the following standards and indicators of the ISTE Standards for Educators at the *Foundational* Level:

- 1.d.
- 2.a.
- 2.b.
- 2.c.
- 2.d.
- 3.a.

ISTE Standard	Foundational Finding Statement	Applied Finding Statement
<b>1. Empowered Learner</b>		
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 learn to use and navigate a sophisticated system throughout the 5-year curriculum. The system includes navigation options, digital media operation, iconography, game responses, and basic web searching.	
<b>2. Digital Citizen</b>		
2.a. Cultivate and manage their digital identity and reputation and are aware of the permanence of their actions in the digital world.	Throughout the curriculum, students learn about the impression of who they are that is created by the nature of their online activities. They learn how different kinds of posts affect how others	



	perceive them, and about different social media environments where digital impressions are created.	
2.b. Engage in positive, safe, legal and ethical behavior when using technology, including social interactions online or when using networked devices.	Students learn warning signs of unsafe websites (and how to respond to them), rules for online etiquette, the ugliness of cyberbullying, and what kinds of information about themselves or others that are okay to share online.	
2.c. Demonstrate an understanding of and respect for the rights and obligations of using and sharing intellectual property.	At multiple grade levels, students learn about the seriousness of plagiarism and proper ways to cite digital information obtained online.	
2.d. Manage their personal data to maintain digital privacy and security and are aware of data-collection technology used to track their navigation online.	Beginning in kindergarten, students are taught the meaning of <i>private</i> and <i>public</i> , and the creation of appropriate usernames and passwords. By grade 5 they are identifying the possible long-term consequences of sharing private information online.	
<b>3. Knowledge Constructor</b>		
3.a. Plan and employ effective research strategies to locate information and other resources for their intellectual or creative pursuits.	In upper grades, students learn principles for evaluating sources of web-based information based on domain type. They also do a <u>simple, guided</u> research project involving web searches, synthesis of information found online, and proper citation of sources.	



## CONCLUSION

Keyboarding Without Tears is high-quality, well-designed online system that is primarily focused on teaching touch-typing to elementary students. In this regard it is robust, engaging, and effective. Lessons are varied and age-appropriate, and they offer sufficient repetition and application of keyboarding skills to make it likely that students who use the program throughout their elementary school years will enter later grades with strong keyboarding skills.

Additionally, the teacher-led digital citizenship lessons are well-designed, useful, and appropriate. They are short and basic enough that teachers will not require a high level of technical expertise to teach them, and they address a wide variety of skills and considerations that are important.

In completing the Keyboarding Without Tears coursework, students will have significant experience in accessing, navigating, and using a sophisticated online system to thoroughly develop fundamental concepts of technological operations in a safe, secure environment.