



ISTE Seal Review Findings Report

Quaver Music

2023



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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 *Quaver Music*?

The Quaver Music PreK-8 Curriculum is a fully digital program designed for today's music classroom, catering to PreK-8 students. It offers a cloud-based learning experience with a student website, focusing on skill-based learning in music composition, rhythm, creative expression, remixing, and collaboration. Quaver Music also provides administrative tools like a grade book, supervisor-level reporting, and a mobile app for student assessments. The curriculum is a comprehensive set of standards-based resources, including interactive elements and PDF lesson plans for a full school year. QuaverMusic is a customizable platform that allows educators to easily access the prebuilt curriculum and supplemental resources within a few clicks. It constantly updates and improves based on user feedback, making it a valuable digital resource for PreK-8 educators.

HOW IS *Quaver Music* IMPLEMENTED?

The Quaver Music Curriculum offers a comprehensive collection of over 332 lessons, activities, and musicals, with closed-caption Spanish options for inclusivity. It includes Spanish songs and translations in Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole. Educators have the flexibility to choose between completing the entire curriculum or selecting specific portions based on their program's needs. The curriculum can be approached sequentially, song-based, or topic-based for different teaching styles. In Grades K-5, units consist of three lessons with assessments at the end, while Grades 6-8 follow a project-based approach with final performance or presentation projects. Quaver Music Curriculum provides flexibility, choice, and assessment opportunities to support effective music education implementation in schools and districts.



ISTE SEAL REVIEW

Product: Quaver Music

Product Type: Curriculum

Organization: Quaver Education

Date of Award: June 2023

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

Quaver Music 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.

1.1.c Empowered Learner

Use technology to seek feedback that informs and improves their practice and to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.

1.4.d Innovative Designer


Exhibit a tolerance for ambiguity, perseverance and the capacity to work with open-ended problems.

1.6.b Creative Communicator


Create original works or responsibly repurpose or remix digital resources into new creations.

1.6.d Creative Communicator



Publish or present content that customizes the message and medium for their intended audiences.

FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Platform provides tools like SongBrush for students to gain immediate feedback when creating their own music. Composing software allows students to follow the music creation process through trial and error. They must solve on their own to ensure the notes coordinate to form sounds and melodies to create final compositions. Platform features such as QGrooves Plus provide ample opportunity for students to create original works and remix them into new musical creations. 	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project-based lessons give students opportunities to understand diverse audiences and create content to get their personal messages across. 	
<p>DIMENSION 1: USER INTERFACE AND AGENCY</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">FEEDBACK</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OUTCOME</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “Teacher Dashboard” intuitively allows users to find what they need. Cloud-based website makes it easy to access from any device. Single sign-on (SSO) and rostering systems allow for a seamless login experience. Micro learning tutorial videos, mixed media support pages, and live chat and phone options provide comprehensive product support options. 	
<p>DIMENSION 2: LEARNING DESIGN</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">FEEDBACK</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OUTCOME</p>




<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson outcomes displayed at the start and end of each lesson are customizable. • Lessons carefully curated with media type in mind to provide developmentally- appropriate instructional tools for all age levels. • Formative and summative assessments throughout the platform enable individual and group work. • Real-world scenarios and examples are relevant and developmentally appropriate. • Multiple opportunities to demonstrate new knowledge and regularly explore conclusions. 	
<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>	
<p style="text-align: center;">FEEDBACK</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OUTCOME</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many opportunities for authentic learning experiences for students with collaborative models and real-world projects. • Students use strategies and problem-solving to create their own musical pieces. • Library of curricular tools offers ample opportunities to encourage positive and constructive peer-to-peer feedback. 	




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"> • Diverse cultures and people reflect many styles of music from around the world incorporated into all areas of the curriculum. • Videos in Spanish, allow for speed up/slow down and English closed captioning. 	

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"> • Assessments are aligned to course goals and standards and can be located in various places throughout the curriculum. • Variety of assessment types foster opportunities to demonstrate knowledge and apply concepts from previous lessons. • Multiple embedded features allow for feedback, such as the private chat feature, rubrics, and grade book. • Educators can track student progress and see what is 	



graded or missing.	
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CONCLUSION

Quaver Music provides an intuitive user experience, with easy access to necessary resources, customizable lesson outcomes, developmentally appropriate instructional tools, formative and summative assessments, relevant real-world scenarios, and multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate knowledge. The platform provides authentic learning experiences through collaborative models and real-world projects, allowing students to use strategies and problem-solving skills to create their own musical pieces. With a focus on diversity and inclusivity, the curriculum incorporates diverse cultures and musical styles from around the world, and the platform includes many accessibility features. The curriculum also offers a variety of assessments that are aligned with course goals and standards, providing opportunities for students to demonstrate knowledge and apply concepts.

Overall, Quaver Music is a comprehensive online music curriculum platform that offers grade-level specific lessons, covers various music topics, and provides interactive projects and activities to engage students in music and music theory. The curriculum includes videos, games, songs, and other learning resources to reinforce musical concepts, while the educators can personalize the learning experience by assigning lessons and providing feedback. The curriculum recognizes music as a universal language that unites people and is thoughtfully sequenced to revisit and build upon concepts, offering a solid foundation for students' musical skills and understanding. With tools for composition, and exposure to different instruments, musical styles, and cultures, the curriculum offers a comprehensive and enriching musical education.