



ISTE Seal Review Findings Report

Schoology
Learning

2023



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT	3
About ISTE	3
ISTE Seal	3
RESOURCE DESCRIPTION	4
What is Schoology Learning?	4
How is Schoology Learning Implemented?	4
ISTE SEAL REVIEW	5
Review Methodology	5
Scope of Review	5
Review Findings	6
CONCLUSION	10



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 *Schoology Learning*?

Schoology Learning is a K12-focused learning management system (LMS). As a part of PowerSchool Personalized Learning Cloud, Schoology Learning is designed to help schools and districts improve student performance, increase parent engagement, and improve overall communication and collaboration. The platform is designed to foster student growth with individualized instruction and equitable access to learning for every student - at home, at school, or anywhere in between. Using the platform, educators can deliver personalized learning experiences at all learning levels and get a clear view of student progress and ongoing instructional needs along the way.

HOW IS *Schoology Learning* IMPLEMENTED?

Schoology Learning increases communication and collaboration throughout a school or district. The platform delivers personalized learning experiences no matter where students are and gives a clear view of student progress and ongoing instructional needs. Schoology Learning provides course authoring tools, course management, communication and collaboration, assessment and grading, resource sharing and a repository of educational resources, integration with learning tools, and data analytics.



ISTE SEAL REVIEW

Product: Schoology Learning

Product Type: Platform

Organization: PowerSchool

Date of Award: November 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

Schoology Learning 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.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

Cultivate and manage their digital identity and reputation and are aware of the permanence of their actions in the digital world.

Creative Communicator 1.6.a

Students choose the appropriate platforms and tools for meeting the desired objectives of their creation or communication.

Global Collaborator 1.7.a & 1.7.b

Students 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.
Students use collaborative technologies to work with others, including peers, experts and community members, to examine issues and problems from multiple viewpoints.


FEEDBACK

OUTCOME



- Students can use feedback from teachers and peers to enhance and track their learning, provide responses, and create artifacts that demonstrate their learning.
- The platform features tools designed to help students understand the importance of digital reputations, manage their digital identity, and encourage appropriate usage.
- Students can access a variety of tools to take pictures, create audio and video recordings, create web pages, upload files, and attach resources from third-party sources.





<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Shared Discussions tool in a course allows students to collaborate with their peers via discussion threads that can include text comments as well as uploaded audio and video recordings. 	
<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"> • Consistently organized, visually appealing, and intuitive interface with specific adaptations for multiple learner levels, especially the lower grades. • Effective layered search with global, local, and hierarchical features makes searching within the platform easy and efficient. • Adjustable controls, features, and content enable teachers to customize course materials, student groups, and parent and administrator views. • Wide range of support options based on school and district needs, including synchronous courses, asynchronous courses, and online help. 	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<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"> • Portfolios offer a particularly rich set of tools that allow students to set and track their learning goals. • Page and content creation tools enable teachers to mix and match formats on a single page so students don't have to navigate away from a page to see relevant content. • A suite of tools to create various types of interactive assignments and assessments to engage students in reflection and reinforcement. • Content can be clustered and individualized for diverse individuals and groups. 	
<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"> • Students have the ability to choose from a wide range of authoring and presentation tools to create content and submit assignments to meet their learning goals. • Students can connect with each other, educators, and parents using the Group tools to post to discussions, engage in group activities, and share resources through features designed to help manage their digital identity and encourage appropriate usage. 	




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"> Creation tools include a number of features designed to enhance accessibility, including multiple formats, speed and captioning control for videos, and high-contrast design options. 	

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"> The platform allows teachers to embed assessments throughout the course content and provides tools for teachers to give feedback on student progress toward learning goals. Extensive array of question types in both selected (e.g., multiple choice, matching, and ordering) and constructed (e.g., short answer/essay, upload audio or video) responses. Teachers can offer specific, targeted, and unique feedback to individual students and on individual questions. Detailed tracking of student engagement and submission of assignments, along with graphic presentation and analysis of performance results. 	

CONCLUSION

The Schoology Learning platform provides a rich and comprehensive digital learning environment in which educators and administrators can create and offer courses tailored to diverse student populations. The user interface is visually pleasing, with graphics designed to appeal to a range of grade-level audiences. Teachers are given effective tools to customize both the environment and materials even further. A particular strength of the platform is its assessment component. There is a vast assortment of formative and summative assessment tools accompanied by performance results and student analytics that provide clear, concise, and useful information about their students. Schoology assessments sync with PowerTeacher Pro Gradebook to import grades which saves teachers time on report cards and also supports parent communication. The modified dashboard and assignments for primary students are a much-needed and extremely valuable component for teachers to provide content, activities, and assessments for their youngest learners.

As the extensive alignment with the platform indicators shows, Schoology Learning is a robust and mature learning management system that offers users a polished, professional, and well-supported solution for a wide range of users and needs.