



ISTE Seal Review Findings Report

**Schoology
Blended
Learning Leader
Academy**

January 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 the *Schoology Blended Learning Leader Academy*?

The Schoology Blended Learning Leader Academy is a nine-month professional learning program designed for a cohort of educators (classroom teachers, instructional leaders/coaches, curriculum specialists, etc.) from educational organizations. This Professional Development Academy helps districts and educators stimulate the pedagogical shift to an effective digital/blended learning environment while ensuring Schoology Learning, Learning Management System is used at the highest levels possible. As a prerequisite, educators should have a basic understanding of the Learning Management System before participating in this Professional Development Academy. Graduate credit from an accredited institution is also available upon course completion.

HOW IS the *Schoology Blended Learning Leader Academy* IMPLEMENTED?

Facilitated in a blended model, educators work in a collaborative cohort to learn, design, implement, and refine instructional practices to infuse elements of blended learning into their classroom/role. Throughout the professional learning program, participants develop leadership skills and assist their organization with building capacity to adopt the Schoology Learning, Learning Management System as their digital learning hub. Teams engage in face-to-face professional learning days, collaborative web sessions, monthly personalized learning opportunities, and ongoing collaboration and coaching with educational experts within the platform.



ISTE SEAL REVIEW

Product: Schoology Blended Learning Leader Academy

Product Type: Professional Development

Organization: PowerSchool

Date of Award: January 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

The Schoology Blended Learning Leader 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.

Learner 2.1.b & 2.1.c

Pursue professional interests by creating and actively participating in local and global learning networks. Stay current with research that supports improved student learning outcomes, including findings from the learning sciences.

Collaborator 2.4.c & 4.3.d

Use collaborative tools to expand students' authentic, real-world learning experiences by engaging virtually with experts, teams and students, locally and globally. Personalize support for educators by planning and modeling the effective use of technology to improve student learning.

Designer 2.5.a & 4.4.a

Use technology to create, adapt and personalize learning experiences that foster independent learning and accommodate learner differences and needs. Collaborate with educators to develop authentic, active learning experiences that foster student agency, deepen content mastery and allow students to demonstrate their competency.

Facilitator 2.6.b

Manage the use of technology and student learning strategies in digital platforms, virtual environments, hands-on makerspaces and in the field.

Analyst 2.7.a

Provide alternative ways for students to demonstrate competency and reflect on their learning using technology.



Professional Learning Facilitator 4.5.b & 4.5.c

Build the capacity of educators, leaders and instructional teams to put the ISTE Standards into practice by facilitating active learning and providing meaningful feedback. Evaluate the impact of professional learning and continually make improvements to meet the schoolwide vision for using technology for high-impact teaching and learning.

FEEDBACK

OUTCOME




<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants connect with educators locally and globally, and facilitators help deepen discussions and provide feedback. • The course content supports educators in implementing student-directed learning and encourages them to dive deeper into areas of interest. • Educators are given multiple opportunities to create and gather feedback when creating an effective Professional Development plan for their community. • Educators work in cohorts to collaborate on projects, engage in discussions, and follow their shared interests. Many of the activities allow groups to determine their own focus when completing activities 	
DIMENSION 1: USER INTERFACE AND AGENCY Definition: The design of the product interface and user experience helps learners quickly and reliably achieve professional growth 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"> • Well organized, visually clean, and intuitive delivery platform. • Breadcrumbs, menu items, and additional information are available to help participants navigate through the course. • Content is structured using multiple identifiers, including titles, numbers, and icons. • Course facilitators can switch between views to "log in as" for any participant enrolled in the course. 	




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"> Well-written objectives clearly align with course content, appearing multiple times within the session. Reflection documents are embedded into course learning activities, allowing participants to self-assess and set personal goals. Folder organization is easy to navigate using consistent icons, numbers, and document formats positioned effectively to move participants through the content. Learning experiences allow participants to practice and analyze strategies for facilitating online instructions. 	

DIMENSION 3: DIGITAL ANDRAGOGY

Definition: The product is designed to support the development of professional digital learning capacities, knowledge, and skills. This dimension focuses on how technology can help educators and coaches create the best possible learning experiences, including the social and learning affordances that digital professional development products uniquely offer.

FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiences, problems, and scenarios are based on real-world classroom contexts. Course includes a mix of asynchronous, face-to-face, and synchronous delivery through the Schoology Learning Platform. 	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout the course, discussions, cohort meetings, and optional discussion threads are available. 	
DIMENSION 4: INCLUSIVITY Definition: The product helps coaches provide scenarios and real-world examples so that educators can provide relevant learning experiences for interactions with people of many cultures, backgrounds, and abilities, and support learner motivation and agency in the learning process. The product creates and supports learner motivation and agency in the learning process.	
FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situations and personas used in scenarios and photos represent diversity and are current and realistic. Content encourages educators to take the perspective of the students they will be facilitating. All activities include reflection with critical questions to encourage self-analysis. Accessibility tools are comprehensive and easy to find. 	
DIMENSION 5: ASSESSMENT AND DATA Definition: The product uses formative observations, self-assessments, and/or educator data – informs learning experiences that help make visible what educators know and don't yet know – to generate data that inform coaches and facilitators about teacher knowledge and skill gaps, and provide teacher assessment feedback that is specific, actionable, and constructive. As such, it guides coaches' instructional decisions and educators' learning journeys.	
FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment options such as discussion boards, exit tickets, applying learning through creating assignments, and reflection activities are varied and appropriate to the content of each specific session. 	



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple opportunities, both individual and collaborative, to submit artifacts that demonstrate understanding and new learning. • The structure of the sessions includes multiple ways for participants to engage in discussions, interact with mentors, and reach out to facilitators. | |
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CONCLUSION

The Schoology Blended Learning Leader Academy is a valuable resource for educators to learn how to create and facilitate online learning for their students. The course presents a foundational overview of best practices in authoring content delivered within the Schoology Learning, Learning Management System. It includes the demonstration of tools educators can take advantage of to enhance student learning. The course design excels in clarity and engagement, as evidenced by well-aligned learning objectives, integrated reflection documents for self-assessment, and interactive learning experiences that empower participants to practice and analyze online instructional strategies. The course experience through the learning platform is well-organized, allowing easy navigation while also encouraging peer-to-peer feedback and collaboration.

The Blended Learning Leader Academy does an exemplary job of providing opportunities for educators to engage in meaningful and authentic learning. This is accomplished through assignments and assessments that educators build within their own classrooms in the Learning Management System, allowing for on-the-spot applied demonstration of understanding. Educators learn how to create assessments incorporating options for students to share their learning through audio, video, and file uploads. Idea sharing is not only encouraged in the course but also expected through collaborative notes, discussion boards, and peer interaction.