



ISTE Seal Review Findings Report

SmartLab

2023



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT	3
About ISTE	3
ISTE Seal	3
RESOURCE DESCRIPTION	4
What is SmartLab?	4
How is SmartLab Implemented?	4
ISTE SEAL REVIEW	5
Review Methodology	5
Scope of Review	5
Review Findings	6
CONCLUSION	11

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 *SmartLab*?

SmartLab implements student-led, project-based learning environments that prioritize problem-solving and critical thinking skills, preparing students for future careers. The LearningHub platform provides structure and flexibility for facilitators, allowing educators to guide students through their projects. Each project starter in the SmartLab curriculum offers the necessary problem, background information, assessment tools, and collaboration features. Facilitators benefit from curriculum planning resources to align projects with educational goals. SmartLab's approach fosters active learning, empowering students to engage in hands-on tasks and document their progress. This commitment equips students with the skills needed to thrive in tomorrow's world.

HOW IS *SmartLab* IMPLEMENTED?

SmartLab by Creative Learning Systems is implemented as a learning environment designed for students from kindergarten through 12th grade. These labs are facilitated by an educator or facilitator who guides the students through their learning experiences. SmartLab serves as supplementary resources to enhance core math and science curriculum, allowing students to delve deeper into these subjects. Additionally, they are utilized to implement Project-Based Learning (PBL) and STEM initiatives, providing students with hands-on, experiential learning opportunities. SmartLab also plays a role in supporting afterschool and community programs, extending the benefits of these innovative learning environments beyond regular classroom hours.



ISTE SEAL REVIEW

Product: SmartLab

Product Type: Curriculum

Organization: Creative Learning Systems

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

SmartLab 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.

1.1.d Empowered Learner


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.

1.3.d Knowledge Constructor


Build knowledge by actively exploring real-world issues and problems, developing ideas and theories and pursuing answers and solutions.

1.5.b Computational Thinker



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.

FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared portfolio "locker" space allows students to collaborate on project documents. Digital project collaboration allows students to document their learning, create SMART goals, and revisit regularly to log their progress toward their goals. Technology challenges are solved through open-ended exploration. The explore, plan, do, reflect, and share process provides scaffolding for students to solve problems, troubleshoot and share thinking. 	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges are set in real-world contexts, and students use specific technologies and tools to explore and create solutions. • Project structures include data collection and analysis opportunities. Data is used in a variety of ways, including creating Claims-Evidence-Reasoning charts to complete challenges. 	
<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"> • Tools, resources, and guides available in an easy-to-use, clean dashboard. • Minimal icons and nested menus make onboarding intuitive. • Metrics and display options are fully customizable by educators. • Multiple support resources and communication options are easily accessible. 	
<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"> • Prompts and discussion boards allow opportunities for student goal setting, progress monitoring, and reflection. • Content divided into manageable task sections. Students can work forward and review backward as needed. • Content order is customizable to address individual learning goals, needs, and sequences. • Multiple easy-to-navigate content formats allow for ease-of-use and student choice. 	
<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>FEEDBACK</p>	<p>OUTCOME</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open-ended challenges grounded in real-world ideas, problems, and issues. Career connections are woven throughout to model the possibilities for students to work further in these interest areas. • Solutions can be uploaded in multiple formats depending on the technology or focus area. • Reflection prompts students to evaluate their design and iterate if needed. • Multiple collaboration opportunities built into the platform and projects. 	




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"> • Examples of jobs and careers show the diversity of people and situations. • Various tools available to students when accessing content and providing responses and project submissions. • Accessibility tools content address speed, language, color, font, background, and audio. 	

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"> • Comprehensive and holistic process for assessment, including multiple formats for students to submit work/artifacts, add comments, and modify submissions based on educator feedback. • Students receive alerts when educators have provided feedback and/or grades. 	



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robust analytics include performance results, grades, submissions, discussion entries, progress, and platform interaction. | |
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CONCLUSION

SmartLab provides students with a guided approach to STEM challenges and project-based learning experiences. The platform provides intuitive onboarding with minimal icons and nested menus, while educators have full customization options for metrics and display.

Within the platform, students access a structured and customizable learning experience with prompts, discussion boards, manageable content sections, and customizable content order. Multiple user-friendly formats are available to cater to diverse learning styles. This flexibility allows students to set goals, monitor their progress, reflect on their learning, and choose their preferred approach to learning.

The platform provides comprehensive educator guides that follow an authentic inquiry process and establish routines for student-directed learning. Challenges presented within real-world contexts prompt students to explore and create solutions using specific technologies and tools. Reflection prompts encourage students to evaluate their designs and make iterative improvements. Collaboration opportunities are facilitated, and the platform offers a range of tools for content access and project submission. The assessment process is comprehensive and holistic, featuring multiple formats for students to submit work and artifacts, add comments, and modify submissions based on educator feedback.

Overall, SmartLab fosters a continuous learning and improvement cycle through a project-based inquiry approach. The platform enables streamlined and user-friendly learning experiences for both educators and students with insights that propel active student-centered learning for individuals and small groups within and beyond the classroom.