



ISTE SEAL OF ALIGNMENT REVIEW FINDINGS REPORT

Apple, Inc.

Apple Teacher

Sept. 2021





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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 nourish 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 APPLE TEACHER?

Apple Teacher and Apple Teacher Portfolio are free, online professional learning programs designed to support and celebrate educators who are using Apple products for teaching and learning. Both programs are components of a larger resource known as the Apple Teacher Learning Center. Parallel support and instruction are offered for teachers using Mac computers or iPad tablets in their classrooms.

Apple Teacher is focused on developing foundational skills with the Mac OS and the Apple programs *Pages*, *Keynote*, *Numbers*, *iMovie*, and *GarageBand*. Each program is supported with 9 to 12 tutorials. Each tutorial is divided into 4 sections:

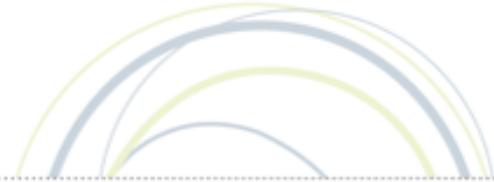
- **Try it** - Tutorials that are delivered through step-by-step instructions with illustrated demonstrations (screencaps, animations, sometimes movies).
- **Apply it** - Two open-ended challenges of the target skill or concept, usually with classroom-related applications in mind.
- **Go further** - A suggested direction for expanding the foundational skill into a more extended application, with a link to a resource that would be useful in meeting the challenge.
- **Share it** - Twitter and email links intended to facilitate sharing what was learned with friends and colleagues.

The tutorials are well-designed, easy to follow, genuinely useful, and readily adaptable for classroom purposes by teachers at any grade level.

At the completion of each set of program tutorials, teachers take a short interactive quiz to demonstrate their understanding of the material covered. Each quiz response receives immediate feedback. Teachers are allowed to retake a quiz until they answer all questions correctly. Successful completion of a quiz results in the awarding of a virtual achievement badge for that app.

Throughout the Apple Teacher program, teachers record progress in a digital journal provided by Apple. The journal is attractive, professionally designed, and customizable in Apple's *Pages* app. The journal has provisions for including screenshots and videos of products from each tutorial, ideas for classroom application of skills learned, a copy of a digital certificate awarded by Apple for completing the tutorials, and a video reflection on the Apple Teacher journey itself.

Apple Teacher Portfolio gives teachers the opportunity to translate the foundational skills they've learned into the development of a portfolio of nine "technology-rich creative learning experiences" for their classrooms. These learning experiences are to be divided equally among three lesson phases in a simple instructional design model of *Activate*, *Explore*, and *Apply*.



Each instructional phase is supported with examples of activities that teachers might consider implementing in their classrooms. Teachers can also access other resources in the Apple Teacher Learning Center to find inspiration for their portfolios.

The portfolio itself is assembled in a *Pages* portfolio template provided by Apple. Like the Apple Teacher Journal, the portfolio document is attractive, customizable, and laid out to make documenting and reflecting on each lesson idea a straightforward operation.

HOW IS APPLE TEACHER IMPLEMENTED?

Apple Teacher and Apple Teacher Portfolio are delivered online, free to anyone who has a valid Apple ID. There is no set order in which Apple Teacher instructional units must be addressed and no set time limit within which work must be completed. While the system could readily be used by a school or district in an organized program of professional development, it is designed with the needs, interests, and schedules of individual teachers in mind.

Teachers who complete six badge requirements by passing the 6 quizzes earn Apple Teacher recognition and move on to creating their Apple Teacher Portfolios. Completed portfolios are submitted to Apple for Apple Teacher Portfolio recognition.

A teacher might choose to spend an entire academic year completing the Apple Teacher and Apple Teacher Portfolio learning paths, but a motivated individual could probably complete all requirements at a swift pace. While Apple awards a certification to those who complete all the requirements, the assessment is based strictly on a completion basis. There is no graded evaluation of final products.



ISTE SEAL OF ALIGNMENT REVIEW

Product: Apple Teacher

Organization: Apple, Inc.

Date of Award: Sept. 2021

REVIEW METHODOLOGY

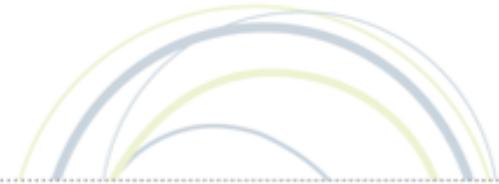
ISTE Seal of Alignment reviews are conducted by a panel of education and instructional experts. Reviewers use data collected both separately and collectively to determine how a solution addresses specific elements described in each of the indicators of the ISTE Standards. Special instruments are used 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 *Apple Teacher*, reviewers:

- Collected data on when and how each activity addressed specific skills and knowledge described in the ISTE Standards for Educators at either a foundational or applied level
- Compiled findings to determine overall alignment across all ISTE Educator standards and indicators.
- Used aggregate findings to form the basis of the overall alignment results.

SCOPE OF REVIEW

Apple Teacher was reviewed for alignment against the ISTE Standards for Educators. Reviewers explored the Foundation Skills instructional units and the accompanying application ideas, as well as additional supporting resources in the Apple Teacher Learning Center. Reviewers also examined the Apple Teacher Journal and the Apple Teacher Portfolio templates. Evidence for alignment with the ISTE Standards was gathered in review matrices and then evaluated for both the *kind* and *quality* of alignment support provided by the Apple Teacher and Apple Teacher Portfolio learning paths.



REVIEW FINDINGS

The ISTE Standards can be aligned at the following levels:

- 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.
- Applied – Resources and activities aligned at the *applied* level primarily focus on practical, real-world, and/or relevant opportunities to practice the skills and knowledge learned in the curriculum.

Apple Teacher was found to align to the ISTE Standards for Educators in the following areas:

ISTE STANDARDS FOR EDUCATORS

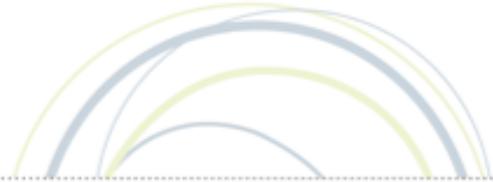
	Standard 1 Learner	Standard 2 Leader	Standard 3 Citizen	Standard 4 Collaborator	Standard 5 Designer	Standard 6 Facilitator	Standard 7 Analyst
Indicator A							
Indicator B							
Indicator C							
Indicator D							



Foundational resources and activities focus primarily on knowledge that facilitates skills acquisition to eventually meet ISTE Standards indicators.

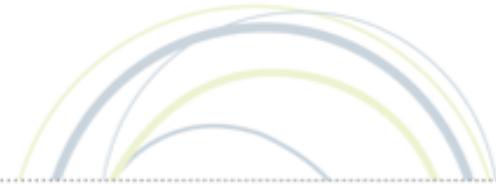


Applied resources and activities focus primarily on practical, real-world and/or relevant opportunities to practice the skills and knowledge learned in the curriculum.

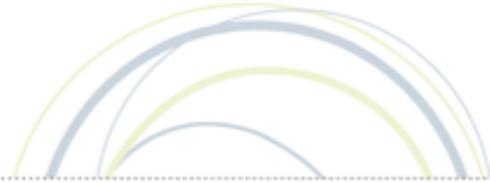


Apple Teacher was found to address the ISTE Standards for Educators in the following ways:

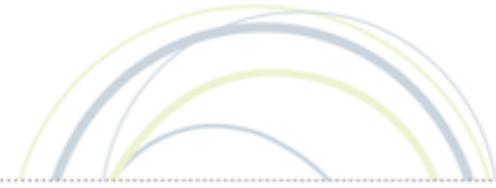
ISTE STANDARD	FOUNDATIONAL FINDING STATEMENT
1. Learner	
1.a. Set professional learning goals to explore and apply pedagogical approaches made possible by technology and reflect on their effectiveness.	Goals (learning & applying skills and earning badges) are set by Apple but adopted by teachers by choice. Professional reflection is integrated throughout the program and is facilitated throughout Apple Teacher via the Journal. Every portfolio lesson includes a reflection component, and a video reflection on the whole portfolio process is the last component of the portfolio.
1.b. Pursue professional interests by creating and actively participating in local and global learning networks.	Teachers are introduced to the practical value of learning networks through weekly Twitter chats (#AppleEDUchat) and the archived highlights of previous chats.
1.c. Stay current with research that supports improved student learning outcomes, including findings from the learning sciences.	
2. Leader	
2.a. Shape, advance and accelerate a shared vision for empowered learning with technology by engaging with education stakeholders.	Teachers are encouraged to share new skills they learn through links in each Apple Teacher tutorial. Every lesson idea in the Apple Teacher Portfolio includes a component on sharing that lesson idea beyond their own classrooms.



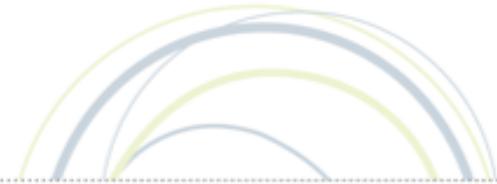
2.b. Advocate for equitable access to educational technology, digital content and learning opportunities to meet the diverse needs of all students.	
2.c. Model for colleagues the identification, exploration, evaluation, curation and adoption of new digital resources and tools for learning.	Throughout Apple Teacher, teachers explore new skills and classroom applications of those skills, extend their learning independently, and share what they've learned and done with colleagues.
3. Citizen	
3.a. Create experiences for learners to make positive, socially responsible contributions and exhibit empathetic behavior online that build relationships and community.	Participants can learn ideas on the Twitter @AppleEDU community for creating student experiences on topics including "Embracing Empathy" and "Building Community". Apple Teacher offers educators models of projects to create lessons/activities that exhibit empathy. For example, "The World You Want to See" encourages students to look at their environment and to consider ways to make it better and to digitally share their ideas.
3.b. Establish a learning culture that promotes curiosity and critical examination of online resources and fosters digital literacy and media fluency.	
3.c. Mentor students in safe, legal and ethical practices with digital tools and the protection of intellectual rights and property.	



3.d. Model and promote management of personal data and digital identity and protect student data privacy.	
4. Collaborator	
4.a. Dedicate planning time to collaborate with colleagues to create authentic learning experiences that leverage technology.	<p>Apple Teacher offers opportunities for educators to learn, connect and share in the Twitter @AppleEDU community and every Tuesday through #AppleEDUchat.</p> <p>The Apple Teacher Portfolio encourages educators to share their lesson plans with peers through direct collaboration on lessons/activities and through the "Share It" portion of the tutorials and by sharing their digital portfolio with peers.</p>
4.b. Collaborate and co-learn with students to discover and use new digital resources and diagnose and troubleshoot technology issues.constraints and calculated risks.	Through the Foundational Skills tutorials teachers learn how to use a variety of Apple digital tools for students to choose from in presenting their learning. Completing projects using digital media requires that students and teachers troubleshoot frequently as difficulties arise.
4.c. Use collaborative tools to expand students' authentic, real-world learning experiences by engaging virtually with experts, teams and students, locally and globally.	Numerous learning examples and tutorials in Apple Teacher make use of collaboration tools built into Apple products and include components of foundational collaboration among students.
4.d. Demonstrate cultural competency when communicating with students, parents and colleagues and interact with them as co-collaborators in student learning.	



5. Designer	
5.a. Use technology to create, adapt and personalize learning experiences that foster independent learning and accommodate learner differences and needs.	Virtually all the projects in Apple Teacher are creative in nature and are adaptable from grade to grade, subject to subject, and student to student. The creative power in the included apps offers a wide range of options for accommodating learner differences and needs.
5.b. Design authentic learning activities that align with content area standards and use digital tools and resources to maximize active, deep learning.	Activities are open-ended and readily aligned with content area standards. The focus of the embedded instructional design model is using technology to promote and support active, deep learning.
5.c. Explore and apply instructional design principles to create innovative digital learning environments that engage and support learning.	Teachers use a simplified instructional design model as a framework for completing Apple Teacher challenges. The lesson components they develop represent initial building blocks of innovative digital learning environments.
6. Facilitator	
6.a. Foster a culture where students take ownership of their learning goals and outcomes in both independent and group settings	
6.b. Manage the use of technology and student learning strategies in digital platforms, virtual environments, hands-on makerspaces or in the field.	



6.c. Create learning opportunities that challenge students to use a design process and computational thinking to innovate and solve problems.	
6.d. Model and nurture creativity and creative expression to communicate ideas, knowledge or connections.	Throughout Apple Teacher tutorials and the Portfolio, teachers create sample student products that model creativity and creative expression. Examples and skill development provided as stimulus are rich, well-designed, and adaptable to all grade levels.
7. Analyst	
7.a. Provide alternative ways for students to demonstrate competency and reflect on their learning using technology.	Teachers learn and practice many ways that students can demonstrate competency by leveraging technology creatively. Activities such as "Use a Digital Journal" encourage students to reflect on their learning.
7.b. Use technology to design and implement a variety of formative and summative assessments that accommodate learner needs, provide timely feedback to students and inform instruction.	
7.c. Use assessment data to guide progress and communicate with students, parents and education stakeholders to build student self-direction.	



CONCLUSION

Apple Teacher is an excellent, expanding resource for any teacher, especially those who want to learn more about utilizing Mac and iPad technology to support student learning. Apple Teacher offers many clear, innovative, and exciting examples of technology-enhanced lesson components, instructions to imitate those examples, and resources to extend the skills learned even further. Being a free program, Apple Teacher is an immensely valuable resource for teachers with the right hardware. The examples are stimulating, useful, and can also be adapted to other technology platforms. They shed light on practical ways technology can be harnessed to support student learning without technology itself becoming the focus of what is learned.

Because adaptable, innovative instruction in which students use technology in a wide variety of ways to learn and creatively demonstrate what they're learning is at the heart of the ISTE Standards, there are many points at which Apple Teacher is aligned with the Standards. This approach is supported by the philosophy in which individual needs and differences are recognized and accommodated, and diversity is celebrated.

The skill-building tutorials are intended to develop a limited set of foundational skills, sufficient to use Apple's included apps effectively. Additionally, the portfolio is focused on developing a small set of lesson components, not entire lesson plans. Through the Apple Teacher program, teachers who are reasonably adept at using technology and who want to make the most of it in their classrooms will gain more than enough knowledge to independently achieve proficiency in skills embedded in the ISTE Standards for Educators.