ISTE Seal Review Findings Report

Lincoln Empowered EK-12

2025

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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 *Lincoln Empowered*?

Lincoln Empowered is a K-12 digital curriculum featuring more than 170 core and elective courses with assessments. Designed by educators, the adaptable curriculum accommodates diverse learning needs to create an inclusive educational environment. Beyond standard offerings, Lincoln Empowered provides semester-based courses, auto-graded options, credit recovery pathways, and State Empowered options. The platform delivers a learning experience for students, creates a supportive environment for parents, and offers tools for teachers to adapt instruction to their specific classroom needs.

HOW IS *Lincoln Empowered* IMPLEMENTED?

Lincoln Empowered implementation begins as a collaborative process between Lincoln Learning's technical team and the client's technology department. Each client receives a dedicated Client Success Specialist who serves as their primary point of contact, assisting with product setup, access management, and curriculum questions throughout the onboarding process. Once implementation is complete, students can be enrolled and begin their learning journey. The curriculum provides teachers with the flexibility to customize content delivery to match their teaching styles and accommodate their students' unique learning needs.

ISTE SEAL REVIEW

Product: Lincoln Empowered EK-12
Product Type: Curriculum
Organization: Lincoln Learning Solutions
Date of Award: April 2025

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

Lincoln Empowered EK-12 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.	
Knowledge Constructor 1.3.b & 1.3.c Students evaluate the accuracy, validity, bias, origin, and relevance of digital content. Students curate information from digital resources using a variety of tools and methods to create collections of artifacts that demonstrate meaningful connections or conclusions.	
Computational Thinker 1.5.a Students formulate problem definitions suited for technology-assisted methods such as data analysis, abstract models and algorithmic thinking in exploring and finding solutions.	
Creative Communicator 1.6.a & 1.6.b Students choose the appropriate platforms and digital tools for meeting the desired objectives of their creation or communication. Students create original works or responsibly repurpose or remix digital resources into new creations.	
FEEDBACK	**OUTCOME**
• The curriculum scaffolds the learning as appropriate to the grade level. • English Language Arts and History courses offer research projects with clear guidelines for source selection and citation. • Science content includes problem definition exercises and the Engineering Design Process. • Students create original works across content areas and select platforms and tools that best meet their communication needs.	

Dimension 1: User Interface and Agency **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.**	
FEEDBACK	**OUTCOME**
• The product adapts seamlessly to multiple platforms with a flexible, modular design. • The content library's search function offers multiple filtering options to pinpoint specific content criteria. • Strong interoperability foundations support the product while the comprehensive "Help Center" guides educators through platform configuration. • Clear privacy statements outline compliance standards and provide instructions for districts to implement additional security guardrails.	
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**
• Learning modules divide content into intuitive tasks with clear organization. • The curriculum provides multimedia elements intentionally to align with specific student outcomes and content requirements.	

• Content objectives appear in multiple formats across subject areas with strategic use of non-examples and multi-modal instructional illustrations. • Teachers can customize the fully modular curriculum by dragging and dropping learning modules across subject areas.	

Dimension 3: Digital Pedagogy

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.

FEEDBACK	OUTCOME
• Students engage with real-world examples and respond through original works throughout the curriculum. • Math and science courses support problem definition and decomposition, particularly through CheMystery and BioLINC labs. • Arts courses excel in solution design processes, particularly in portfolio development activities. • PE, Art, and other courses incorporate peer collaboration opportunities throughout learning activities.	

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

• Content examples feature diverse representation without relying on stereotypes. • The platform offers easy-to-locate video and audio controls with adjustable playback speeds. • Students can personalize their learning experience with high contrast modes and additional screen accessibility tools.	
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**
• Strategically placed assessments throughout the curriculum align directly with learning objectives. • Students can view detailed rubrics within modules before submitting learning artifacts. • Teachers can select from multiple assessment types or customize alternative assessments to fit course needs. • The platform provides immediate student feedback while enabling teachers to offer personalized responses.	

CONCLUSION

Lincoln Empowered offers a comprehensive collection of learning modules that effectively structure online courses across the EK-12 curriculum. The platform integrates external content providers alongside proprietary materials, creating a functional and solid educational resource. Its modular design enables educators to customize learning experiences by reorganizing content to meet specific classroom needs.

The platform excels in technical implementation with strong interoperability foundations and adaptability across multiple learning management systems. Learning modules divide content into intuitive tasks with clean organization, while the search functionality allows educators to efficiently locate specific content through multiple filtering options.

Lincoln Empowered demonstrates pedagogical effectiveness through strategically placed assessments aligned with learning objectives and detailed rubrics available to students before artifact submission. The curriculum scaffolds learning appropriately across grade levels, incorporating problem definition exercises and engineering design processes in science courses. Students engage with real-world examples and create original works while selecting tools that best fit the activity. The platform successfully implements accessibility features including adjustable video and audio controls, high-contrast modes, and screen reading tools that accommodate diverse learning needs.

Lincoln Empowered represents a solid approach to digital curriculum delivery that prioritizes teacher flexibility and student engagement. Its strongest attributes include technical reliability and modular design that supports customized learning paths across the EK-12 experience.