



District Packages

The Connecticut State Department of Education and the Commission for Educational Technology are collaborating with ISTE (the International Society for Technology in Education) to provide public school districts in Connecticut access to ISTE professional learning packages at no cost.

Option 1: ISTE Certification for Educators



Competency-based and vendor-agnostic, [ISTE Certification](#) facilitates reflective practice and learning, focusing on pedagogy rather than tool-specific skills. Participants apply and curate evidence in a portfolio of artifacts. ISTE leads cohorts of 20 or more in a district designed for edtech coaches, teachers, and library media specialists. This cadre anchors a critical mass for change in instructional practice and learning culture in the district.

- 40 hours of learning over 14 weeks
- Up to six months to curate and submit portfolio artifacts (~40 hours)
- Graduate-level credit: Ability to earn up to 4 credits

Learners focus on how to use technology and digital resources strategically and purposefully for:

- Designing for diversity
- Equity in digital learning environments
- Redesigning learning and instruction
- Digital citizenship
- Computational and design thinking

Option 2: ISTE's Summer Learning Academy

Designed for teachers, tech coaches and directors, librarians and media specialists, the flexible format of ISTE's [Summer Learning Academy](#) allows educators to design their own virtual summer learning pathway with accredited courses, webinars, expert-led communities of practice and more. Courses will be open from June 28 - October 14, with webinars and other programming running all summer long.



Learning outcomes include:

- Develop strategies for using technology to empower and include all students.
- Leverage technology to form meaningful connections to students and families.
- Design active, engaging and impactful digital learning experiences.

Districts interested in ISTE professional learning packages will have the opportunity to request more information and apply via a survey. If you have questions, please contact Carolyn Sykora, Senior Director, ISTE Standards Program (csykora@iste.org).

Option 3: Comprehensive District Bundle

Provide foundational training for a larger group of educators while upskilling a select cadre of educators for true district transformation with **both** ISTE Certification and ISTE’s Summer Learning Academy.



Optional Add-On: Librarian Professional Development Package

Librarians play an essential role in bringing teaching and learning into the digital age. They help students with research and finding the perfect resource, but today they’re often found showing students how to use technology, helping learners detect whether information is from a trustworthy source, and facilitating schoolwide training on edtech.

As a supplement to options 1 and 3, ISTE offers professional development specifically designed for librarians and library media specialists:

- **ISTE Certification for Librarians** runs concurrently with ISTE Certification for Educators, and librarians can earn both certifications through one process. Portfolio includes educator and library artifacts for submission.
- **ISTE U’s Exploring Future Ready Librarianship course** is a 15-hour, instructor-led, fully online learning experience designed to maximize student-centered learning opportunities and help districts leverage technology as part of the Future Ready Schools® Initiative.



Option 1	ISTE Certification for Educators (20 seat minimum) *Optional seat add-ons: (up to 5 seats) ISTE Certification for Librarians Exploring Future Ready Librarianship
Option 2	ISTE’s Summer Learning Academy (100 seats recommended)
Option 3	ISTE Certification for Educators (20 seat minimum) ISTE’s Summer Learning Academy (100 seats recommended) *Optional seat add-ons: (up to 5 seats) ISTE Certification for Librarians Exploring Future Ready Librarianship

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Frequently Asked Questions

I. General Questions

Is this 100% free to districts?

Yes, the ISTE offerings are 100% free to districts unless participants choose to opt-in to graduate level credits, which would incur a separate fee from the credit provider. All educators will be required to sign a commitment form prior to participating, but there is no cost incurred by them or the districts.

Is it up to the district which of the offerings we can sign up for?

Yes, districts will elect which offering(s) will be available to their educators.

If I choose both the Certification and the Summer Learning Academy, do the same learners participate in both?

Not necessarily. This choice is left to the districts. The Summer Learning Academy provides up to four introductory courses for any educator who wants to learn more about using technology for learning. ISTE Certification is designed for edtech coaches, teachers or library media specialists who have experience using technology for learning and want to improve their practice.

Are there minimums/maximums for participants from a district?

For the Summer Learning Academy, the recommended number is 20, but that is flexible.

The ISTE Certification requires a minimum of 15 participants to run a cohort and cohorts should not exceed 35 participants in order to maximize engagement. However, if your district is small, ISTE will work with you to combine and build a cohort with participants from multiple districts. At this time, there is no maximum number of participants from a particular district, though districts will be expected to fill the number of seats they reserve in the interest survey.

What is the district commitment?

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology want to ensure districts that pursue this opportunity are committed to supporting their educators' successful completion. This means districts will identify a district lead who will be a point of contact for ISTE. It may also mean release time for participants, periodic check-in meetings with ISTE and district leads, and celebrating participants' achievements.

Who should be chosen to be the district lead?

District superintendents should choose a point of contact for ISTE. Typically, this person is the leader responsible for staff development, instructional technology, or teaching and learning. They will be responsible for internal district communication and enrolling district staff in ISTE offerings. ISTE will work closely with the district lead to recruit, schedule certification dates, and monitor participant progress in the programs.

What is the educator commitment?

All educators who participate in an ISTE professional development offering will be required to complete and sign a commitment form.



Can participants earn graduate-level credits for their participation?

ISTE has a partnership with Dominican University to earn credits for the ISTE Certification (up to 4 credits) or the Summer Learning Academy (1 or 2 credits). This is a separate cost to participants, \$65/credit, and Dominican sends out transcripts to participants seeking graduate-level credit.

I want our district to participate. What is the next step?

Please have your chosen district lead to complete the [district interest survey](#). Seats will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. ISTE is available to meet to discuss options and provide recruitment materials and guidelines to begin to build interest among educators in your district. CSDE will confirm available seats for your district in mid June.

II. [Summer Learning Academy](#)

What is the participant time commitment for the Summer Learning Academy?

Individual educators choose up to 4 self-paced courses that address their professional interests. Depending on their choices, participants will spend between 8 to 26 hours in total. Courses open up June 28 and are available until October 14, 2022. We will also offer a number of webinars aligned to the course topics over the summer months. These will be recorded and available for later viewing.

Can I, as district leader, identify the four Summer Learning Academy courses for my educator?

You may communicate to educators which courses you wish them to select, but ISTE's platform will not be able to limit their selections.

III. [ISTE Certification](#)

What is the structure of the ISTE Certification?

Phase 1 is 14 weeks of facilitated, virtual learning, punctuated with 5 two-hour long, synchronous sessions. The synchronous sessions are led by ISTE facilitators, scheduled about every two weeks. The days and times of these sessions will be coordinated with the district's preferences as much as possible. The [syllabus](#) describes the course content and activities. **Phase 2** is the self-study portfolio phase. Participants have up to 6 months to curate their artifacts and submit their portfolio. ISTE schedules and hosts private district office hours during this period where participants can ask questions about artifacts.

ISTE evaluators review portfolios. Those who score 80% or better will become ISTE Certified Educators. All participants receive official feedback from reviewers and may re-submit their portfolio if they do not pass.

What is the participant time commitment and duration of the ISTE Certification for Educators and Librarians?

Participants will spend around 40 hours during phase 1. Time commitment for phase 2 varies widely (~40 hours), but participants have up to 6 months to curate and submit a portfolio. In total, participants may take up to 9 months to complete the program.

The Librarian Certification runs concurrently with the Educator Certification. To receive a dual certification, participants submit additional role-based artifacts for the portfolio.



How does ISTE help with recruitment of educators, especially for the ISTE Certification?

The [ISTE Certification](#) is pedagogy-focused and competency-based. Those who are successful have experience using technology in the classroom and seek to grow their practice. ISTE provides district leads with resources so individuals can self-identify and prepare to commit to the time and effort. These include: 1) an informational flier about the program; 2) participant interest survey language to gauge readiness; and 3) an optional informational webinar for prospective participants to learn more.

When can the ISTE Certification cohorts be scheduled?

ISTE works directly with the district lead to schedule a private cohort start date in the coming months that works best for the district. We share recruitment resources and guidelines to schedule the 5 synchronous sessions on the day of the week and time of the day that best fits district schedules.

What does the portfolio consist of?

The portfolio includes artifacts that demonstrate application of the ISTE Standards for Educators. Portfolios are submitted to ISTE and reviewed by our independent panel of evaluators. Results of portfolios are sent to participants between 6 to 8 weeks after submission.

The certification is valid for 3 years. How do ISTE Certified Educators maintain their certification?

Over the duration of three years, certified educators participate in activities to earn points towards recertification. There are dozens of activities to choose from (e.g., join or present at Monthly Meet Ups, join a book study, lead a professional learning activity on the ISTE Standards at your school or district, etc.) It is NOT participation in another certification cohort or another portfolio submission.

Renewal fees are on a sliding scale depending on how many points earned and can cost between \$99 to \$250 to renew certification at the end of the third year for an additional 3 years.

Do the 4 graduate level credits as part of ISTE certification for educators and librarians satisfy some of the 30 semester hours of credit related to computer science required for cross endorsement in Computer science (unique endorsement #110)?

The State Department of Education would accept the 4 credits on a transcript from Dominican University towards the overall 30 credit requirement. A determination will be made soon regarding whether they count towards the 12 credits for the computer science part.

IV. Future Ready Librarianship

I want to include add-ons for my librarians. What are the options?

The librarian add-ons are available with the ISTE Certification or the District bundle. Districts may include seats in the Future Ready Librarianship course or in the ISTE Certification for Librarians or both. When you complete the survey, indicate your preference in the form.

What is the participant time commitment for the Future Ready Librarianship course?

Participants will spend 15 hours in the facilitated course and can choose one of the following sessions:

- Summer session: July 11 to September 4
- Fall session: October 3 to December 4

How can a librarian who is already an ISTE Certified Educator earn the ISTE Certified Educator?

If a district chooses either the ISTE Certification Offering or the District Bundle Offering, ISTE will work



with district leads to identify librarians who have earned the ISTE Certification for Educators and enroll them in the Librarian portfolio space to prepare and submit their portfolio.