

21 Things 4 Teachers Review Findings

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21 Things 4 Teachers is a Web-based professional development resource developed by Macomb Intermediate School District, Ingham Intermediate School District, and Shiawassee Regional Educational Service Agency, in collaboration with the Michigan REMC Association. 21 Things 4 Teachers is offered both as a free online resource, and as a structured professional development course with options for earning graduate credit through various universities. 21 Things 4 Teachers covers a wide array of digital applications framed within the context of different educational practices, issues, considerations and environments. Participants in the online course gain a broad set of digital skills and experiences and a foundation for using technology to enhance classroom instruction and professional practice.

Both the online course and the web resource consist of 21 modules or “Things” that together create a conceptual and experiential framework for participants to learn various technology tools and about how technology can support every aspect of an educator’s professional life. Each Module/Thing is well laid out, attractive, easy to navigate, and covers a variety of topics that are central to the effective use of technology in the classroom. In addition, the online course includes a face-to-face component, online discussions, peer and expert feedback, and a final digital portfolio and capstone activity to showcase participant growth and synthesize new skills into a personally relevant plan or reflection.

Overall, the 21 Things 4 Teachers resource provides participants with the preparation they need to successfully participate in professional development activities, and contributes substantively to readiness in all of the performance indicators for the ISTE Standards for Teachers. The 21 Things 4 Teachers resource was recommended for a level 3 review, also referred to as an ISTE Standards Readiness review, because it is designed primarily around “learning to use technology” rather than “using technology to learn.” With this approach 21 Things 4 Teachers is a strong vehicle for laying a foundation for successfully using technology to support classroom instruction. As the title indicates, the 21 Things 4 Teachers covers a range of technology tools and foundational skills for acquiring the knowledge and applying the skills described by the ISTE Standards for Teachers.

REVIEW METHODOLOGY AND FINDINGS

After a careful review of the 21 Things 4 Teachers and all associated materials, ISTE reviewers determined that there is substantial support for readiness of the ISTE Standards for Teachers, and identified that the resource meets the readiness requirements and alignment for the following indicators of the ISTE Standards for Teachers:

Meets:

1.a., 1.b., 1.c., 1.d., 2.a., 2.b., 2.c., 2.d., 3.a., 3.b., 3.c., 3.d., 4.a., 4.b., 4.c., 4.d., 5.a., 5.b., 5.c., 5.d.