

MEDT 7471
Website Evaluation Exercise
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The website I have chosen is www.ixlmath.com. The site supports state standards of all 50 states and Georgia in particular. I selected the website because it contains many math activities for students correlating directly to the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). Math is an area of needed improvement in our school improvement plan. Our school is recording ways in which we have worked to improve math proficiency.

The website is very valuable because activities are listed by GPS and activities are easily selected by the index. Teachers often spend a great deal of time searching the internet for activities directly related to a particular GPS, but this website has done the work for the teacher. A teacher's time can be her most valuable resource, so saving a teacher time improves teacher moral and anxiety level.

Teachers can use the activities on the website in a whole group setting with an interactive whiteboard or in an individualized setting in a computer lab. The content can be used to teach, assess, or review a particular GPS. The website can be sent home to parents for practice at home. The activities will also show a parent all of the GPS that a child should be learning throughout the school year. The website gives parents an opportunity to visualize and practice what the standard means and what a student must do in order to meet a standard.

Software/Website Evaluation Form

Title of Software/Website: IXL Math (www.ixlmath.com)

Intended Grade Level: Kindergarten - 6th grade

Content Area: Math

SA	A	D	SD	NA	Content
x					The content is accurate.
x					The objectives meet my curriculum needs.
	x				The reading level and vocabulary is appropriate for the intended user.
x					The website/software has various levels of instruction for varied abilities.
SA	A	D	SD	NA	Technical Aspects
x					Uses the unique capabilities of the computer.
				x	Sound can be turned off.
x					Maintains a record of student performance/progress.
x					Instructions are clear.
x					User can skip over familiar instructions.
SA	A	D	SD	NA	Design
	x				Graphics and sound add to effectiveness of the program.
x					Screen format is well planned and consistent.
x					Difficulty of instruction adjusts according to student response.
x					Feedback is effective and appropriate.
x					Students can access menu to change activities.
x					Responds to errors effectively.
SA	A	D	SD	NA	Support
x					Documentation is clear and comprehensive.
			x		Print materials are provided for students.
x					Additional learning activities are suggested in the documentation.
SA	A	D	SD	NA	Motivation
x					Easy to use.
	x				The students will like it.

Three things I liked about the website/software: All activities correlate with the Georgia Performance Standards. The software will allow students to move on to more challenging objectives after completing current objectives. It provides practice for students who have not shown proficiency on a standard. The software also has reports to analyze student progress. A free 30 day trial is offered for teachers to use with their students. Many activities are free of cost even without the subscription or the free trial.

Three things I disliked about the website/software: The complete software package costs \$199 per year for a classroom subscription. School budgets are limited due to lack of state funding, so a school wide subscription could be very costly. The program does not appear to have any print materials except the reports. Only one type of activity seems to be available in the software. The graphics are appropriate, but not very entertaining.

My Overall Recommendation: The software is excellent in showing a teacher the exact areas of student weakness. Teachers are working to differentiate instruction, and the reports in this software will assist teachers in creating groups based on specific skill proficiency. Our teachers are doing a similar program this year, but it is all paper and pencil. Teachers have to copy and grade all assessments. IXL math saves a teacher time by creating standards based assessments, providing data, and providing data analysis.