Software Selection and Implementation
EIM 551 Technology in School Environments
IXL Learning

Cost Analysis:

IXl Learning is purchased by Calhoun County School System annually for $133,000. This license serves 7,800 students and covers Language Arts, Math, and Science. This is a cost of $17.05 annually per student in our school district.

If the school system did not purchase a license the cost for a classroom subscription varies. This cost provides for 25 students.

- One Subject - $299
- Two Subjects - $499
- Three Subjects - $549
- Four Subjects - $599
- Five Subjects - $899

An individual family can purchase a membership. This could be valuable for families that homeschool or want a way to provide additional practice to supplement their child's schoolwork. A family subscription covers one child. Additional family members can be added at four dollars per child.

- One Subject - $9.95 per Month / $79 per Year
- Two Subjects - $15.95 per Month / $129 per Year
- Four Subjects - $19.95 per Month / $159 per Year
- Five Subjects - $24.95 per Month / $199 per Year

Training costs do not apply to this software selection because IXL Learning has such an extensive built-in teacher tutorial system. They provide videos and demonstrations along with extensive question and answer options. Teachers who are new to IXL can easily navigate through how to use IXL as well as veteran users who are simply looking for answers to questions.

Selection Basis:

I evaluated both Epic and IXl Learning because I use both in my classroom, if not daily then weekly. I ultimately chose to do a deeper examination of IXL Learning because it reaches more students in my school than Epic. IXL Learning provides standards-based practice for our students in Language Arts, Math, and Science. My grade level team posts assignments weekly in IXL in all three subjects. From a teacher point of view, it is extremely easy to navigate and is an efficient way to assess mastery of skills. I really appreciate that I can use the data to gauge the overall understanding as well as the individual understanding of very specific skills. We no longer pass out worksheets. IXL replaces worksheets but in a more dynamic fashion. Not only is it colorful and easy to navigate for students but when an answer is missed there is a mini lesson with explanations available for the student. The other difference is that IXL allows me to levelize the skills being practiced. If I need students to practice "context clues." I can assign "context clues" in 4th-grade, 3rd-grade, 2nd-grade skill level, etc.

depending on the student's ability level. This keeps students from being defeated and allows them to show growth. Teachers are able to provide practice in foundational skills that meet the student's level of need.

I love that Epic provides so many books for students to read. It is quick and easy to navigate and is very captivating. I see this through the lens of a Language Arts teacher. Epic is primarily only used in my classroom and honestly not past the middle school level. However, IXL reaches students in multiple subjects starting at Pre-K continuing through high school.

Effectiveness:

Teachers use IXL to effectively and efficiently assign practice that aligns with the standards being taught. Students from PreK to twelfth grade can benefit from this application software. In a classroom, it is necessary to have individual practice with skills to reinforce what is being taught by the teacher. One of the nice features about IXL is that as students master the skills they can move along to another standard and can be challenged or receive additional help, if needed. Some classrooms and school systems choose to use IXL daily and for grading purposes. I use IXL weekly for additional practice. I have seen the special education teachers use it for documentation of sufficient progress and mastery of skills for their individualized education plans (IEP's). I know that our high school uses IXL to provide documented make-up work for missed assignments.

I want all of my students to be able to apply the skills I teach in my classroom in a variety of ways. If skills are only taught and assessed in one way teachers do not have a true picture of what a student knows. I also like that students are able to practice the skills at their own pace. It may take a student 12 questions to master a standard or 30 questions, but they are able to show mastery. As my students master their standards and earn badges, they feel successful and gain confidence. I love to see a student fist bump their neighbor or show off their badges. Tests offer assessment of mastery but can cause anxiety for some students. IXL provides a way to gauge learning without anxiety.

I was very surprised by the overall cost of the program. However, when I broke down the expense into individual student gains I had a different perspective. The individual cost of less than $18 per student is very rational. School systems measure the value of expenditures based on test scores. I do not have access to the before and after effects of IXL usage but as a teacher I am curious to know the effectiveness of the IXL Learning program. Online application of skills presented in a variety of ways must benefit students when it comes to taking standardized tests such as the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP).