Your guide to IXL

the essential classroom tool

Thank you for joining us at IXL Live to take a deep dive into IXL's curriculum and learning tools!

FOR TEACHERS
IXL's curriculum and meaningful analytics make differentiation more effective so you can reach every student at the right level and help them grow.

FOR STUDENTS
IXL engages students in an authentic way, encouraging them to own their learning, embrace new challenges, and build skills and confidence that last.

We hope today's workshop, and this guide, will inspire you with new ways to use IXL to enhance your teaching and your students' learning!

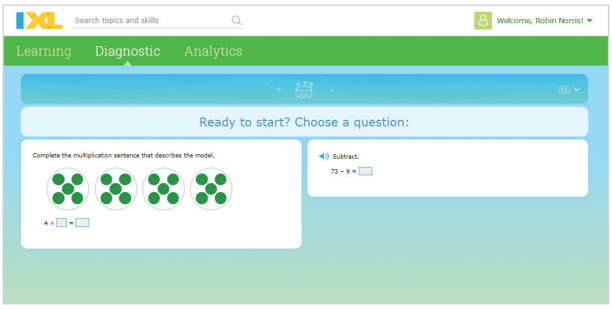
IXL Continuous Diagnostic

IXL's Continuous Diagnostic works seamlessly with IXL's curriculum to tell you exactly what your students know and precisely what to do next to help them grow. Don't think of it like you would a traditional diagnostic, because it's so much more!

The perks of IXL's Continuous Diagnostic

- You don't need to set aside testing days
- Get up-to-date stats anytime, so you can keep up with your growing learners
- You'll get a unique action plan for each student
- Students really enjoy using it!

The IXL Continuous Diagnostic student experience



- Students can enter (and leave) the Diagnostic arena at any time by clicking on "Diagnostic."
- It will take most students about 120-150 questions in the beginning for the Continuous Diagnostic to narrow down their levels in both math and ELA—this can be spread out over multiple sessions.
    - For math only, it will take about 70-85 questions
    - For ELA only, it will take about 50-65 questions
- After that, it takes just 10-15 questions a week to keep their stats up to date!
- As they answer questions in the Continuous Diagnostic, students will be updated when they narrow down their levels and when they've generated a new skill recommendation. Occasionally, they'll also get to pick between two questions to answer!

SEE IT IN ACTION: Visit youtube.com/IXLLearning and search for the "The IXL Continuous Diagnostic: Student Experience" video!

IXL Curriculum

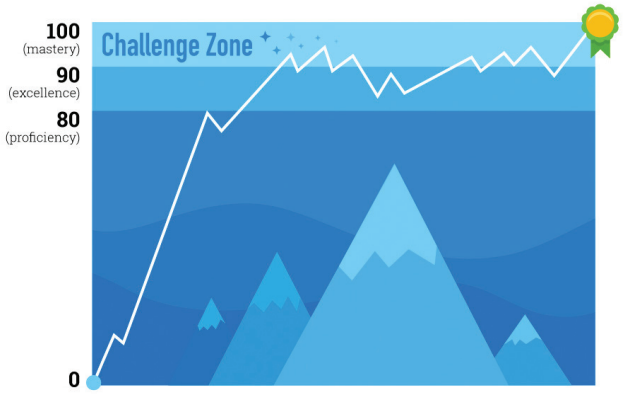
IXL offers 8,000+ skills that are deeply engaging and adapt to students as they grow. These tips will help you and your students get the most out of IXL's curriculum.

GET SMART ABOUT SMARTSCORE

The SmartScore is not a percentage score

The SmartScore factors in question difficulty, answer accuracy, and consistency to reflect students' true understanding of a skill. You can think of it as a predictor of performance: if a student reaches a SmartScore of 85, you could expect a similar score on a test of that skill.

The IXL SmartScore



The right SmartScore goal isn't always 100

SmartScore goals can vary depending on the student and the skill. A SmartScore of 100 indicates mastery, which is very challenging to achieve, and may not be an appropriate goal for every student. Most teachers set a SmartScore goal between 70-90.

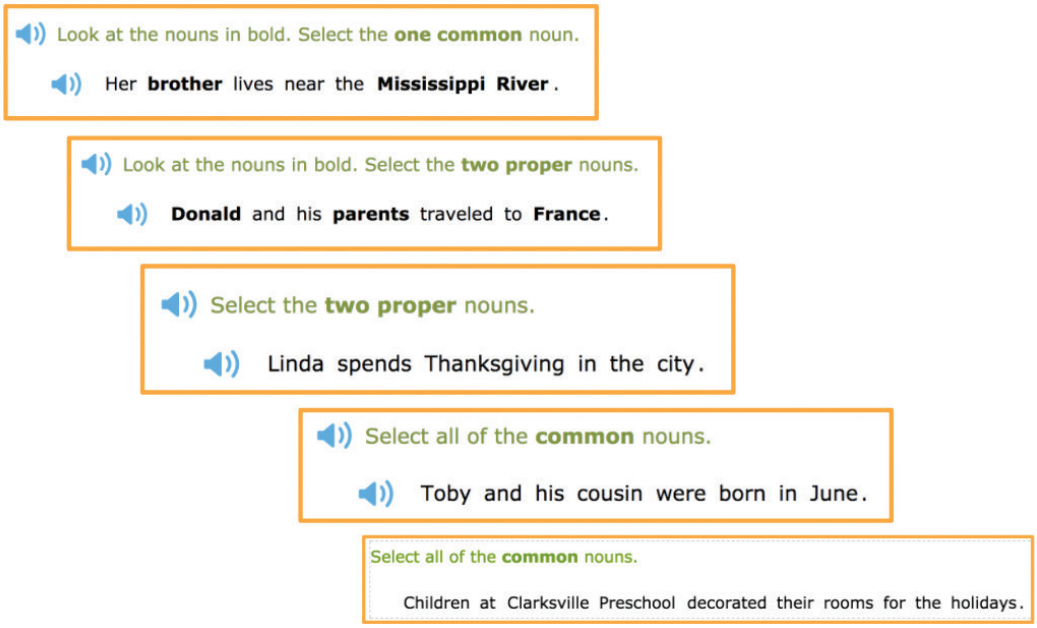
The SmartScore is motivating!

The SmartScore is forgiving of mistakes. Students' scores drop if they answer questions incorrectly, but can always increase again as students learn from their mistakes and answer more questions correctly. When students see that it's always possible to raise their scores, it motivates them to not only reach the goal you've set for them, but to go beyond it and strive for mastery!

VIDEO REFRESH: Visit youtube.com/IXLLearning and search for the "IXL SmartScore - Myth vs. Fact" video. Play it for students so they can get smart about SmartScore too!

SKILL PROGRESSION

How does IXL adapt to each student? Within each skill, there are multiple steps that increase in difficulty. This may include more complex text or numbers, more answer choices, or fewer hints and prompts. As students progress through the steps, we increase the difficulty of one or more of those factors, but at a gradual, gentle pace. This ensures that students understand the foundations of the skill before working up to more rigorous questions.

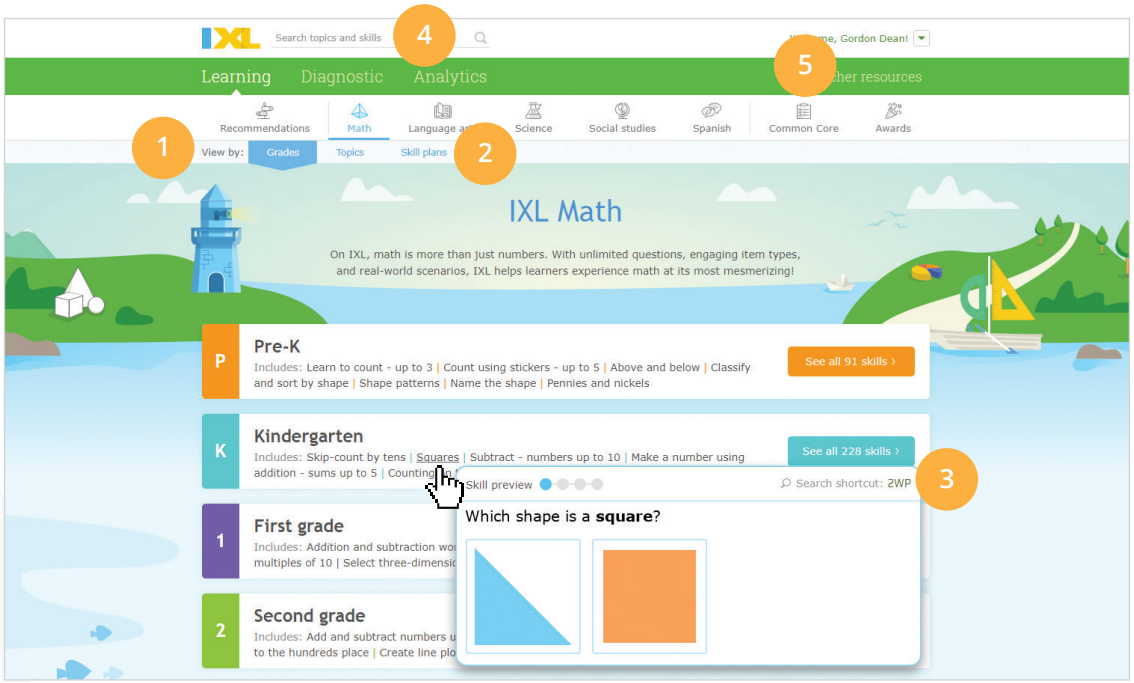


★ **FUN FACT:** Most questions on IXL are algorithmically generated, rather than pulled from a small question bank. This means students can practice as much as they want and almost never see the same question twice!

FINDING AND ASSIGNING SKILLS

There are many ways for you to find skills for students to work on!

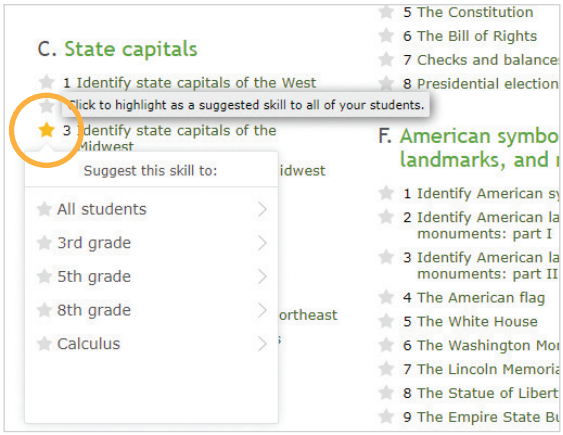
1. **Grade and topic view:** Once you click on a subject, you can browse skills by grade using the bar on the left. Or, click the "Topics" link near the top of the page to view all skills sorted by topic.
2. **Textbook, test prep, and Common Core skill plans:** Use our skill plans to find skills aligned to each chapter in your textbook and Common Core standards, as well as the exact skills students need to excel on high-stakes tests. Just click the "Skill plans" link from the subject or grade landing pages for math or language arts.
3. **Permanent skill ID:** Each skill has its own 3-digit permanent skill ID, which will always stay the same. You can have students enter a skill ID into the search bar to pull up the skill.
4. **Search bar:** Use our handy search bar at the top of the page to find the skill or topic you're looking for.
5. **Standards alignments:** IXL is fully aligned to standards for all 50 states—click on Standards or Common Core to see the IXL skills that align to each learning objective!



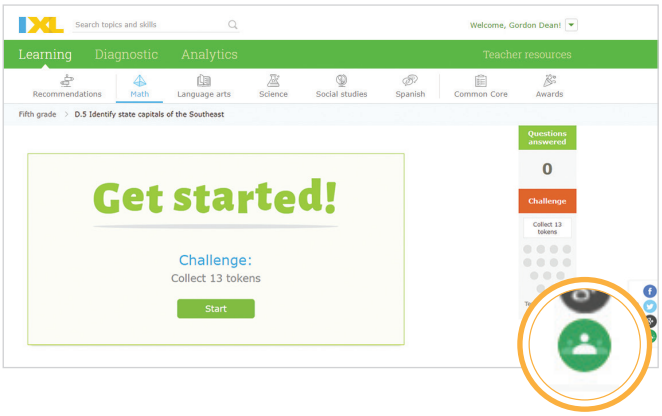
EMBRACE THE EXPLANATIONS: If students answer a question incorrectly, they'll get a step-by-step explanation for how to correctly solve the problem. Remind students to read this carefully or have them analyze their error in a graphic organizer or journal—it'll help them remember the problem-solving strategies for next time!

There are also multiple ways to assign skills to your students.

- **Suggested Skills (starring) feature:** Log into your teacher account and hover your mouse over the star icon to the left of a skill's name on a grade, topic, or skill plan page. A drop-down menu will appear with a list of your students, grouped by class.
    - From the menu, click the stars to assign the skill to a specific class or student, or to your entire roster.
    - The skill will be starred and highlighted for your selected class or student. Students also have easy access to all of their suggested skills on their Recommendations page!



- **Skill URL:** Copy/paste the URL of the skill into an email, your class website, etc.
- **Google Classroom:** Share a skill directly to Google Classroom by logging into your teacher account, visiting the skill you want to share, and clicking the green Google Classroom icon on the right side of the page.

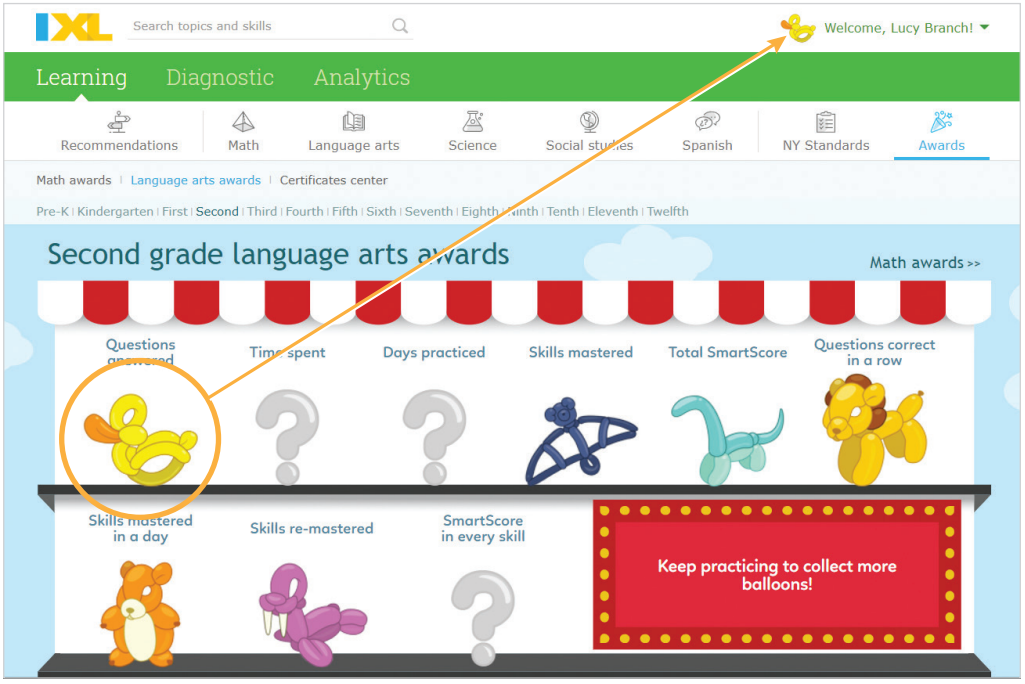


HIDE GRADE LEVELS: In cases where you don't want students to focus on the grade level of the skill they're working on, you can hide the grade levels. Sign into your teacher account, open your account menu and select Profile & settings. Check the "Hide grade levels" box and click submit. All of your students will then see Level A, Level B, etc. instead of Pre-K, Kindergarten, etc.

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

As students practice, IXL's virtual awards and printable certificates help them celebrate their achievements. You can print out individual student certificates and class-level certificates by clicking Learning, then Awards. These are great to post on a bulletin board, or to send home with students!

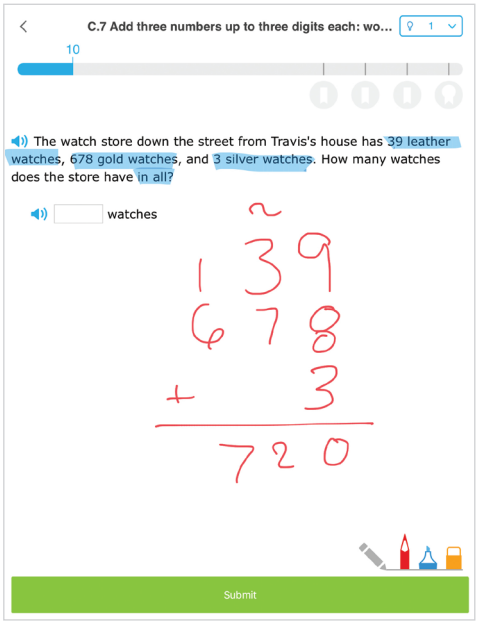
★ **TURN AWARDS INTO AVATARS:** Have you discovered this hidden trick? Students can make their awards their avatar by dragging the award to the square next to their name in the upper-right corner of the page!



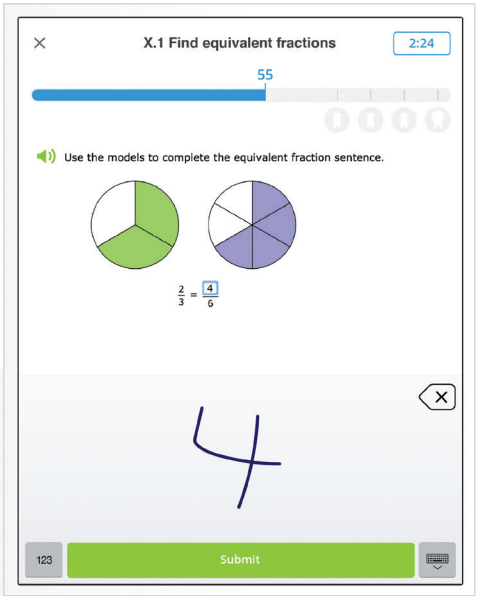
MOBILE APP

Your students can take their learning on the go with IXL's mobile apps for iPad, Android, Kindle, and iPhone! Check out these mobile-only features that make learning fun and intuitive for students:

- **Scratchpad (tablet only):** By using the built-in scratchpad (click the pencil icon on the bottom right), students can work out problems right on the screen using the pencil tools, or use the highlighter tool to mark key words and passages.



- **Handwriting recognition:** With handwriting recognition for math, students can simply draw answers with their fingers and the app recognizes what they've written, from simple integers to more complex entries like fractions and algebraic expressions.



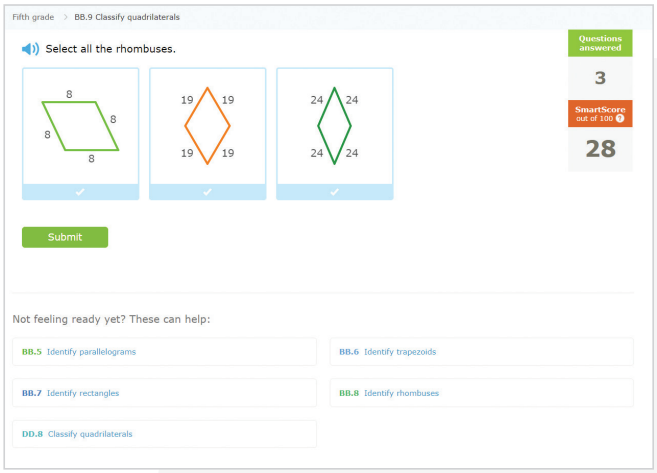
IXL Recommendations

IXL generates personalized recommendations for each student so they can target their trouble spots, challenge themselves, explore new topics, and more. And, they're fun! Students see recommendations in two places: while they're practicing a skill and on their Recommendations wall.

IN-SKILL RECOMMENDATIONS

If students need help while learning a skill, have them use the recommendations at the bottom of the screen to self-differentiate and self-remediate! These in-skill recommendations are building block skills that address relevant knowledge gaps for the skill students are currently working on. After they've practiced those building blocks, they can go back and tackle the original skill with confidence.

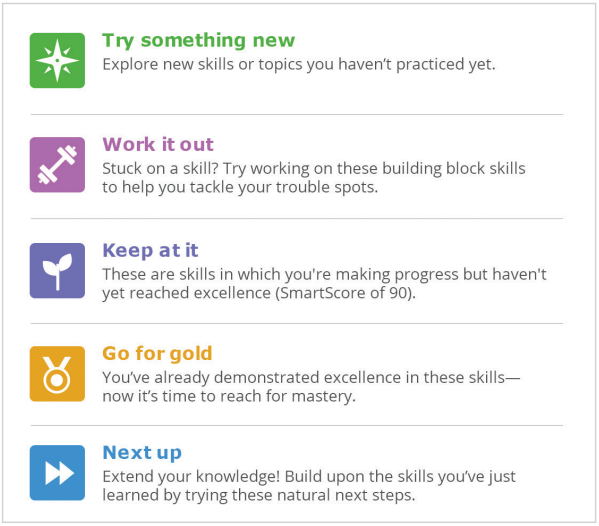
When students reach a SmartScore of 90, they'll see "Next Up" recommendations for skills that they're ready to work on next!



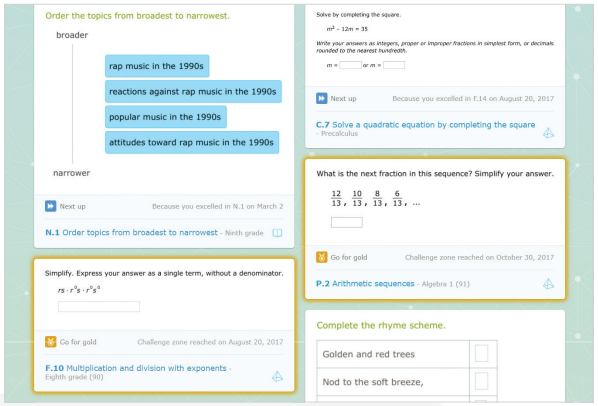
RECOMMENDATIONS WALL

The Recommendations wall is a great way to pique students' curiosity and help them take ownership of their learning. It's filled with the perfect skills for them to work on now, which are personalized based on their IXL practice. With five different types of recommendations, students will always have something new to learn and explore!

There are many fun ways you could use the wall with your students, from including it as bell work or as part of a station rotation, to designating a "Work it out" Wednesday where students pick one "Work it out" recommendation and try to achieve a SmartScore of 80 or 90.



FILTERING RECOMMENDATIONS: To view recommendations from a single subject, click on the blue math or language arts icon on the bottom right corner of the recommendation. You can also filter by recommendation type. For example, click on the "Go for gold" icon to see all "Go for gold" skills highlighted in a colored border.



IXL Analytics

As your students learn on IXL, you'll be able to use IXL Analytics to get useful insights based on their practice data. These insights will help you track their progress and performance, uncover trouble spots, and even alert you when students need help!

★ **CUSTOMIZE YOUR REPORTS:** Use the drop-down menus in the grey bar at the top of each report to filter the information you see—view by class, subject, date range, and more.

Students Quickview

Use this report for a high-level view of how and where students are spending their time on IXL. Click on a student's name to drill down into their individual practice sessions.

Score Grid

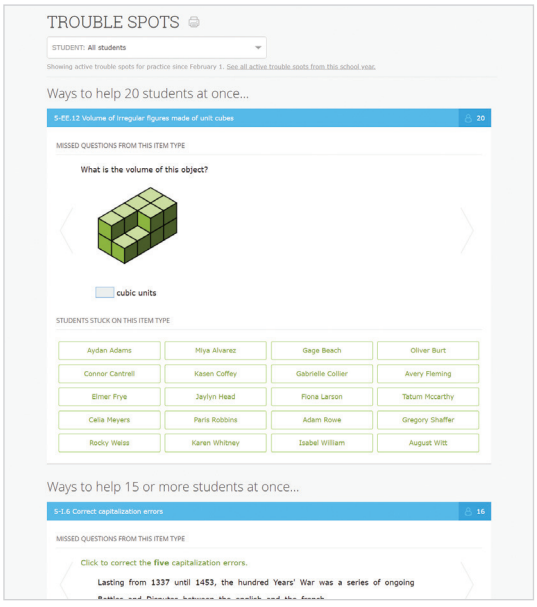
The Score Grid is a quick and easy way to see if students have completed their SmartScore goals, or get a general idea of what you've covered and what you still need to get to. Use the handy "Additional options" menu to filter the grid; for example, you can choose to just see scores for the skills students have practiced, or for skills in a specific category or standard, or to highlight scores at or above 70, 80, or 90. This is also a great report to export as a spreadsheet (look for the icon next to the report name)!

Trouble Spots

The Trouble Spots report is an essential tool for addressing student needs efficiently. It pinpoints where students are getting stuck, telling you the specific difficulty level within a skill they haven't been able to move past.

- A trouble spot means a student has missed 3+ questions in that particular item type, or level of difficulty, in a skill.
- Use the drop-down to view individual student trouble spots.
- Scroll through the actual questions your students missed.

Hover over a student name for additional details about their progress.



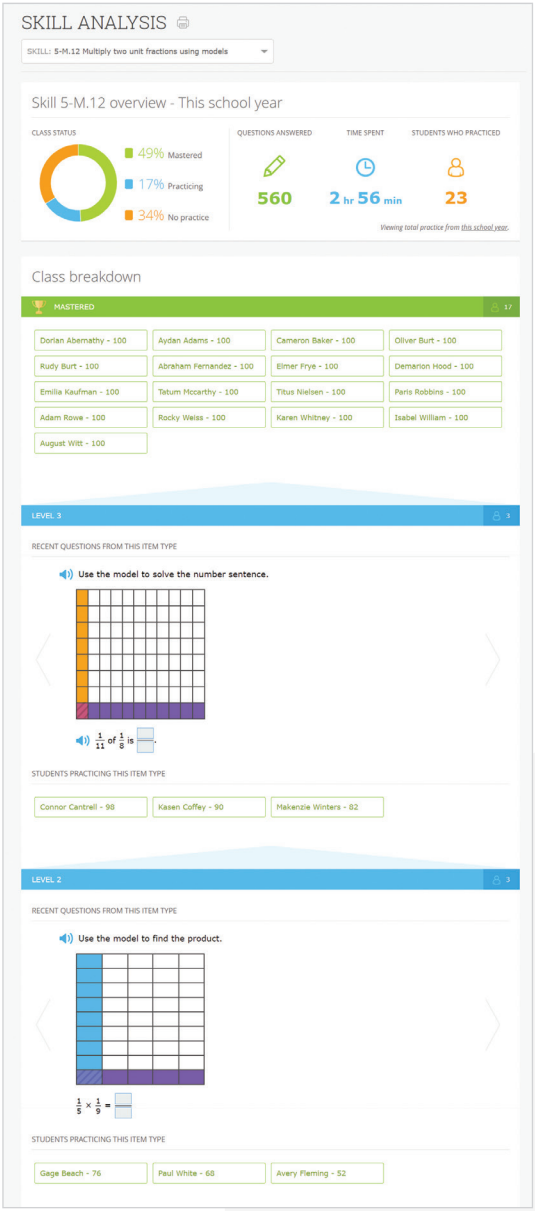
Ways to use this report:

- Lesson planning “triage”: Determine what gaps to address with the whole class, with small groups, and with individual students.
- Use the missed questions as sample questions when reteaching students.

Skill Analysis

The Skill Analysis report is great for a deep dive into skills you asked the whole class to work on. You’ll get insight into the levels of difficulty in the skill and where students are on the path toward mastery.

- See what step each student is on in the skill.
- Scroll through the actual questions your students answered.
- Hover over a student name to see if they are progressing or if they have hit a trouble spot.



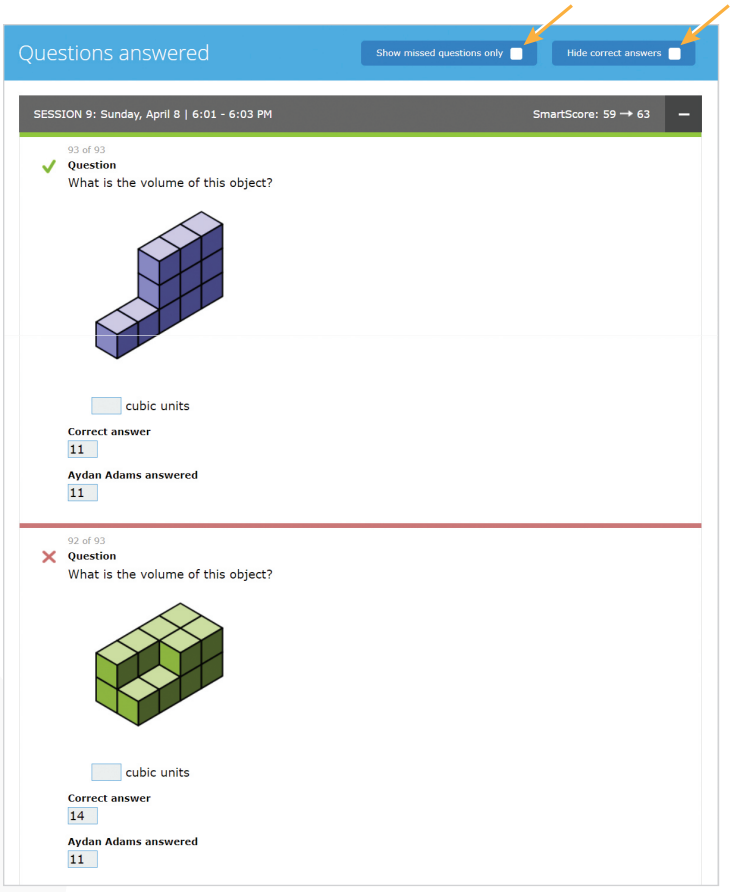
Ways to use this report:

- Small-group instruction: Form groups for reteaching based on the level students are currently working on.
- Peer instruction: Pair up students working on the same level, or have a student at a higher step help a student who’s at a lower step!
- Whole-group instruction: Get insight into the question types you’ll want to cover with the entire class.

Questions Log

If a student is getting stuck, the Questions Log report can help you uncover why they're struggling.

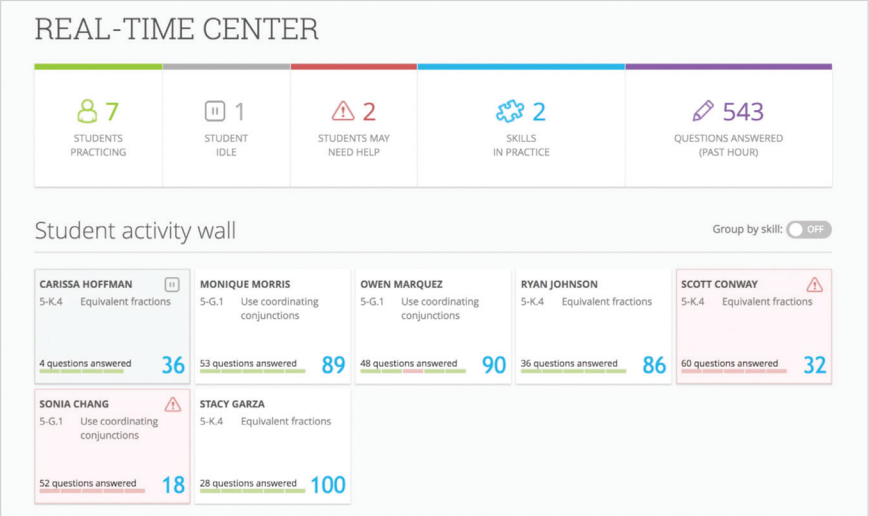
- This report breaks down every practice session and shows the student's answer to every question they encountered.
- Examining their responses can help you discover patterns and mistakes the student is making. In this example, we can see that the student is only counting the cubes he can see.
- Use the filters to view missed questions only and hide correct answers. After you do that, you can even print the questions as a worksheet to help students understand their mistakes and redo their work!



Real-Time Center

This fun report is a teacher favorite! Live activity tiles show you what your students are practicing, and alert you to when students need help or are off task.

- Red tile = student has missed 3 of their last 5 questions
- Grey tile = student has gone idle
- The tile shows the student's current SmartScore
- The bar at the bottom of the tile shows the last 5 questions answered (green = correct, red = incorrect)
- Use the filter to sort by skill



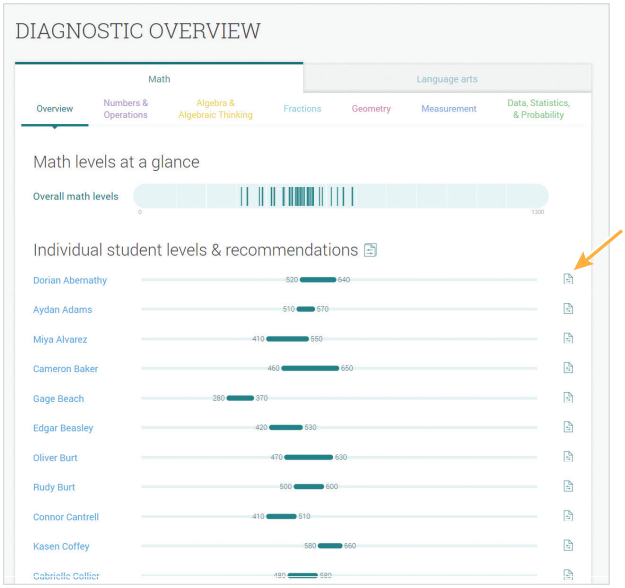
Ways to use this report:

- When students are working independently at school (in the classroom, at the computer lab, etc.):
  - Provide help the moment it's needed: You'll be alerted with a red tile if students have missed 3 of their last 5 questions so you can step in and offer support.
  - Keep students on task: The Real-Time Center is a great classroom management tool, allowing you to be everywhere at once when your students are working on IXL!
  - Motivate students: Many teachers have told us they like to project the Real-Time Center for the whole class. Do this to encourage friendly competition among students, or train students to offer peer help when they see a fellow learner struggling!
- When you're not in the classroom:
  - Log in at night to see who's practicing at home or take a peek when you have a substitute to see if students are working.

Diagnostic Overview, Student Action Plan, and Diagnostic Strand Analysis

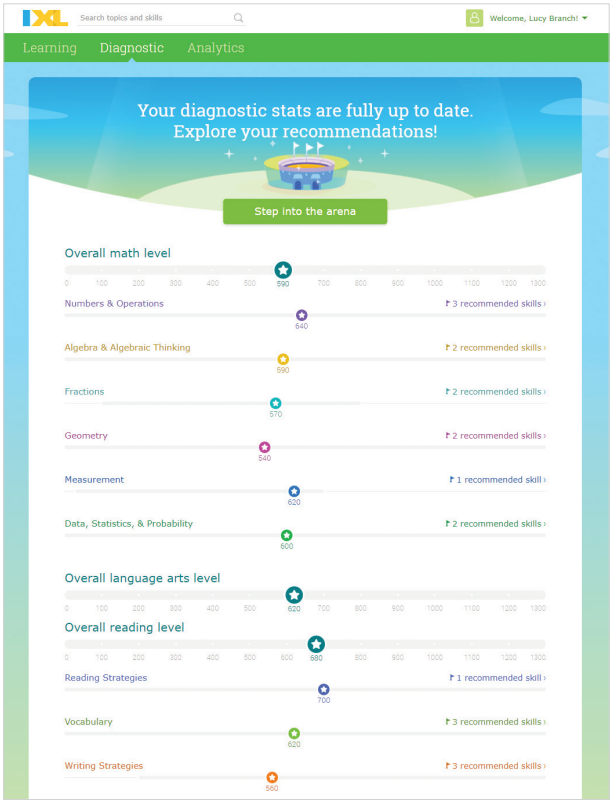
Diagnostic Overview:

- Student levels start as a range, but those ranges will narrow down as the student continues to diagnose.
- When the Continuous Diagnostic has enough information to pinpoint the student's level, it will appear as a single number.
- Diagnostic levels correspond to grade levels, i.e. 400 means the student is ready to start 4th grade material, 650 means the student is about halfway through 6th grade material, etc.
- Download a Student Action Plan PDF for individual students, which shows their levels and their top recommendations for each strand.



Student Action Plan:

- From the Diagnostic tab in their accounts, students can view their own stats at any time.
- Recommendations are skills that the Continuous Diagnostic has determined are the right level to help the student grow.
- Students can click to see the skills on their Recommendations wall.

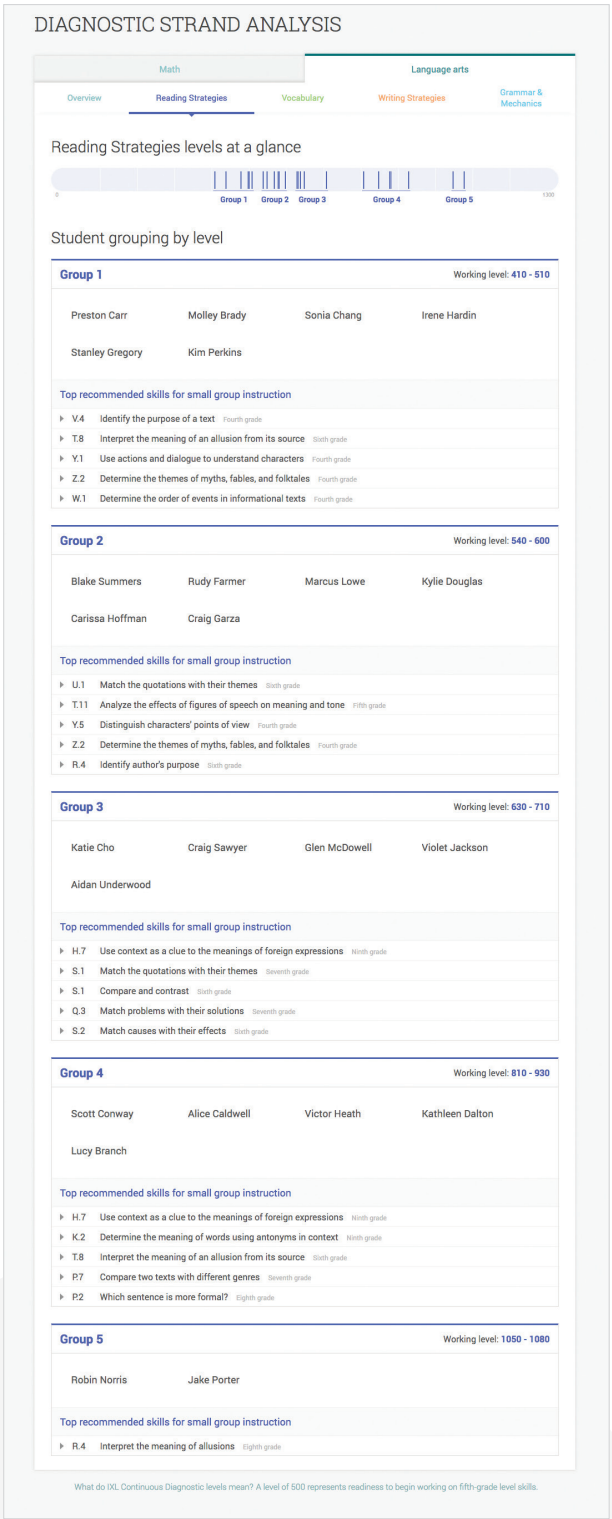


Diagnostic Strand Analysis:

- The bar at the top helps you visualize the knowledge levels of your class. Hover over the lines to see which students are in which ranges.
- Click on a strand to drill into it and see student groupings and the top recommended skills for each group.

Ways to use the IXL Continuous Diagnostic:

- Give students their Student Action Plans and have them practice some of their top recommended skills.
- Use the Student Action Plans to track student progress throughout the year and keep parents in the loop!
- Use the Diagnostic Strand Analysis to determine your small group instruction.



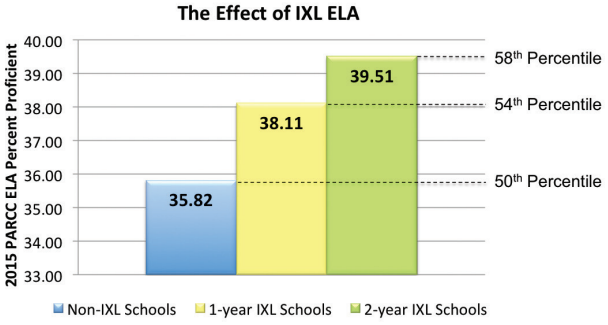
The IXL Effect

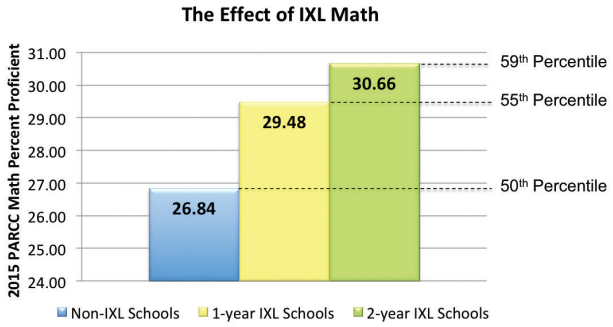
Thousands of schools around the country are experiencing the IXL Effect—and you can too.

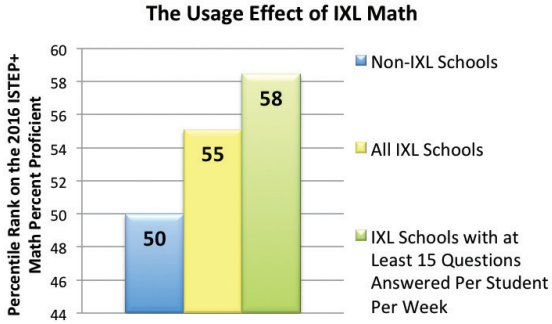
IXL has conducted efficacy studies encompassing 20 states to assess IXL's impact on students. Results found that IXL schools are consistently outperforming schools that don't use IXL on state assessments.

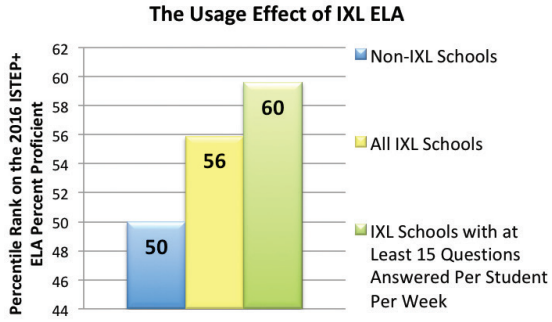
These research-backed best practices can help your district to optimize learning and experience the IXL Effect in your schools:

- **A little bit of IXL goes a long way:** Schools where students answered just 15 IXL questions per week outperformed all the others on state assessments!
- **Strive for mastery:** When students consistently reach proficiency and mastery of IXL skills, schools see as much as a 16-point bump on state assessments.
- **Enhance learning in math and ELA:** Research shows that schools achieve even greater performance gains when they support student learning with both IXL Math and IXL ELA.
- **Build a consistent IXL culture:** Schools that implement IXL across all grade levels consistently see greater growth on state assessments.
- **The longer schools use IXL, the better they do:** School performance continues to improve after using IXL for 2 and 3 years.









Thanks again for joining us at IXL Live—we hope you'll keep in touch!

Have questions about how to use IXL or want to get additional PD for your school?
Email us anytime at pd@ixl.com

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facebook.com/IXL

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FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
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Tweet at us using **#IXLLive** to show off what you learned. You'll be entered in a raffle to win swag for your classroom!

Notes

Notes

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