



STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PANORAMA VILLAGE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

240 VILLA CREST DRIVE • STATE COLLEGE PENNSYLVANIA • 16801
TELEPHONE: 814-231-1021 -- FAX: 814-231-4130

TO: Dr. Robert O'Donnell, Superintendent

FROM: Jacquelyn Martin, Will Stout, Chris Merritt

DATE: November 28, 2018

RE: Supplemental Learning Resource for Middle School Academic Literacy/English

As per our discussion during this week's Culture, Climate and Learning Committee meeting, our middle schools' language arts curriculum team recently evaluated and explored a variety instructional software programs to support individualized student learning in seventh and eighth grade English Language Arts (ELA). In the past, teachers have used Study Island and ExactPath to provide practice in reading skills. We have also reviewed Kahn Academy's free online content. While Kahn Academy provides grammar practice and some content readings, we believe that is more appropriate for high school students.

The IXL reading component would complement our current instructional program by providing additional practice on [core reading and writing skills](#) for individual and groups of students. This tool allows teachers to assign content/practice based on MAP assessment scores or to assign content that is currently being studied in the unit. Teachers can adjust the grade level difficulty up or down as needed. This tool will not be used as a homework substitution but rather a classroom activity. Additionally, teachers can gain additional formative learning information regarding individuals and groups of students to adjust their own instruction.

IXL Learning has provided us with a quote to upgrade our existing IXL district site license for 1,050 students at a total cost of \$4016.00. This upgrade is available for the duration of our existing licensing which expires on July 1, 2019. Prior to the conclusion of the agreement, we will reflect upon our students' and faculty's experiences to evaluate our usage and effectiveness of the tool and determine whether to request a future renewal.