

Which is the right assessment for your school/district?



IXL now offers two innovative PreK-12 math and ELA diagnostics, each intentionally designed to meet your unique needs and goals for assessment. Both diagnostics can be flexibly used to get benchmarking data and ongoing instructional insights, and immediately provide students with a personalized action plan.

For most schools and districts, we recommend the IXL LevelUp™ Diagnostic. The LevelUp Diagnostic is the most psychometrically rigorous, efficient, and precise assessment that meets stringent criteria for states and districts.

However, you might have a different preference depending on your unique situation. Here's how to choose the best assessment for your school or district.

We recommend choosing the IXL LevelUp Diagnostic, especially if...

- **You want to capture true point-in-time benchmark data.** The LevelUp Benchmark only considers student performance on the diagnostic to capture student knowledge on that day, maximizing validity.
- **You want to know how students perform on specific state standards.** The LevelUp Diagnostic provides state-specific standards reports on how well students know each standard.
- **You want to maximize instructional time.** The LevelUp Snapshot can be completed in as little as 15 minutes, while Real-Time mode refreshes student levels with 10 questions per week.
- **You want to provide Spanish support.** The LevelUp Diagnostic for math offers full Spanish language and audio support.
- **You want to easily flag students at risk of reading difficulties.** The LevelUp ELA assessments identify students at potential risk of reading difficulties, including dyslexia, so you can provide early interventions.

You may use the IXL Flex Diagnostic if...

- **You want to provide a lightweight, engaging student experience.** To students, the Flex Diagnostic doesn't feel like a traditional test. They receive encouraging feedback throughout the assessment, and have the option to skip questions they feel are out of reach.
- **You want to give students a head start on assessment.** Skill practice and student work in Real-Time mode feed into the Flex Diagnostic, shortening the time it takes to pinpoint diagnostic levels.



Comparing IXL's diagnostics: IXL LevelUp Diagnostic vs. IXL Flex Diagnostic



See which diagnostic assessment best suits your scenario with a side-by-side comparison:

	IXL LevelUp Diagnostic	IXL Flex Diagnostic
Assessment types	- Benchmarks - Snapshots - Real-Time mode	- Benchmark mode - Real-Time mode
Subjects and grade levels	PK-12 math and ELA	PK-12 math and ELA
Design and research	Designed with rigorous psychometric and research techniques to ensure validity and reliability	Designed with psychometric techniques and research-proven to be valid and reliable
Completion time	LevelUp Benchmark:  Math: 45 minutes on average, with a 1-hour time limit  ELA: 90 minutes or less, with a 90-minute time limit LevelUp Snapshot: Can be completed in as little as 15 minutes, depending on how recent students' previous Diagnostic activity is - Each Benchmark and Snapshot question has a 3-minute time limit, ensuring efficiency - Reading questions for grades 6+ have a 5-minute time limit - Extended time accommodations available	45-60 minutes on average - No time limit on individual questions or overall test
Accommodations	- English audio support - Extended time accommodations - Spanish support (math only) - Spanish audio support (math only) - Can be managed by teachers and administrators	- English audio support - Can be managed by teachers

State-specific versions	• Virginia • Texas • Florida	
Student action plans	• Personalized recommendations that direct each student to the highest-priority skills to work on next	• Highly personalized skill recommendations based on students' knowledge levels
National norms	• Nationally normed K-12 math and ELA	• Nationally normed K-12 math and ELA
Reports	• View past assessment data and compare two assessments side-by-side without exporting • State-specific standards report on students' knowledge of each standard available for administrators and teachers • Additional data points for ELA: ◦ Risk of reading difficulties flag ◦ LitRange score • Alerts teachers when students may be rushing through the diagnostic • Overall levels, tiered classification (on/above/below/far below grade level), and strand levels • Filter and view data by specific student subsets including grade, school, course, teacher, and demographics • Administrator reporting on data from Real-Time mode • Teacher ability to export reports and batch-print action plans • Diagnostic data in teacher reports: Progress & Growth, Students Quickview, Student Usage, Student Summary, and Live Classroom	• View past assessment data and track growth over time • Overall levels, tiered classification (on/above/below/far below grade level), and strand levels • Filter and group data by specific student subsets including grade, school, course, teacher, and demographics • Administrator reporting on data from Real-Time mode • Teacher ability to export reports and batch-print action plans • Diagnostic data in teacher reports: Progress & Growth, Students Quickview, Student Usage, Student Summary, and Live Classroom
Scoring	• Two types of scores: ◦ User-friendly scores for admins, teachers, students, and parents ◦ Technical scale scores available for assessment specialists • The LevelUp Diagnostic assesses students across PK-12 material.  Math: The maximum score a student can reach is 1200, which would indicate they are working at a 12th-grade level	• One type of user-friendly score for admins, teachers, students, and parents • The Flex Diagnostic assesses students across PK-12 material. The maximum score a student can reach in math is 1400, which would indicate they are working at a calculus level • Real-Time mode scores update constantly as students work

Scoring	 ELA: The maximum score a student can reach is 1300, which would indicate they are working above a 12th-grade level Real-Time mode scores update on a periodic basis; students who have received a score in the past two months will receive frequent score updates every 10-20 questions	
Student experience	- The LevelUp Diagnostic is designed to meet important reliability and validity criteria required by states and districts. - No correct/incorrect feedback appears after questions answered, to limit distractions - Students are not offered an “I don’t know this yet” option, encouraging them to not give up too quickly or move through too fast - Each question and the overall Benchmark and Snapshot tests have a time limit (no time limit in Real-Time mode) - IXL SecureTest protects assessment integrity - In-assessment calculator on select questions - Recommendations from the LevelUp Diagnostic appear on students’ Recommendations Wall	- The IXL Flex Diagnostic is designed to be a lightweight assessment that doesn’t feel like a traditional test - Students will see immediately whether they answered each question correctly or incorrectly, to keep them informed about their progress - Students may choose the “I don’t know this yet” option to skip a question if it is truly out of reach - No time limit on individual questions or overall test - In-assessment calculator on select questions, with the ability to limit access - Recommendations from the Flex Diagnostic appear on students’ Recommendations Wall
Impact of skill practice on assessment	Only considers student performance on the LevelUp Benchmark to capture the student’s knowledge on that day, maximizing validity	Skill practice and previous assessment scores feed into the IXL Flex Diagnostic, reducing overall assessment time

Ready to make your assessment selection?
[Sign in](#) to choose your preferred diagnostic tool!

