

Implementation Strategies

Al Seeliger Elementary School, Carson City School District
Carson City, NV

Grade(s): K – 5

Scenario: One-to-One Laptop Program, Computers in Classroom, Home Access

Purpose: Enrichment/Gifted and Talented, Improve State Test Scores, Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 40%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2 hours per week, 10–15 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables)

Linda Csig, Teacher

I have a cluster of Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) students, and I enhance their math skills with ALEKS. I have seen tremendous growth in my students who are using ALEKS. Usually, GATE students are already high achievers in math, so their growth is not as dramatic at grade-level. However, after using ALEKS this year, there has been a great deal of growth in these brilliant students. I feel that ALEKS is able to challenge my students beyond my curriculum, and it builds their confidence in their math ability.

Scenario

What challenges did the class or school face in math prior to using ALEKS?

Usually, the GATE students learned but did not show tremendous growth.

How many days per week is class time dedicated to ALEKS?

2 days per week.

What is the average length of a class period when ALEKS is used?

30 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

My advanced students are able to use ALEKS to supplement their regular math curriculum.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

I usually have them working on the same skills that we are doing in class. Once those are mastered, they can choose which area to focus on in ALEKS.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

I have the ALEKS students use laptops and work at their level, while I teach the rest of my class the fourth grade math standards. I also monitor the laptops and assist the students on ALEKS.

How did you modify your regular teaching approach as a result of ALEKS?

I am able to teach my fourth grade curriculum and advance the students that are already proficient.

How often are students required or encouraged to work on ALEKS at home?

I encourage them to try once a week. However, some students do not have access to computers at home.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

My parents are supportive, however, not all of them have a computer at home.

Grading

Is ALEKS assigned to your students as all or part of their homework responsibilities? If so, what part of the total homework load is it?

No.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

ALEKS is supplemental, and I use it as extra credit.

Do you require students to make regular amounts of progress in ALEKS?

I have students meet a quarterly goal in ALEKS, then I print out their progress report from ALEKS and send it home with their report cards.

Learning Outcomes

Since using ALEKS, please describe the learning outcomes or progress you have seen.

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Best Practices

Are there any best practices you would like to share with other teachers implementing ALEKS?

I really like the tutorial that ALEKS provides. Since I have almost half of my class on it, I am able to assist other students with math problems, while my ALEKS students receive the assistance that they need to be successful with ALEKS program.