

Implementation Strategies

Bess Herian Elementary School, Cusick School District
Cusick, WA

Grade(s): K – 6

Scenario: Computer Lab, Computers in Classroom, Home Access

Purpose: Intervention, Improve State Test Scores, At-Risk Students, Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1+ hours per week, 12 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables)

Lisa Hoxie, Teacher

The ALEKS program allows students to work independently; they can track their progress and set personal goals. This program has fact practice, computation, Algebra, and much more. In addition, all of the activities can be set to your specific state standards. Most of the students are eager to work with ALEKS. My at-risk students have a chance to review material and fill in gaps in their learning, while the gifted students find ALEKS just as challenging. Many of the students want to complete all grade-level topics and move to a more advanced level.

Scenario

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

Our school often struggled with giving students enough differentiated curriculum.

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

1–2 days per week.

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

5–20 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

The classroom curriculum follows our state standards. Students work on strands that align with our curriculum.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

Yes, we always start with the Number Sense pie piece at the beginning of the year. It is important that our textbook and the ALEKS program are aligned. It helps the students make stronger connections.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, students work on classroom assignments. Students rotate on ALEKS using one of our four computers. On Wednesday, we go to our library computer lab where students work for 30–40 minutes on ALEKS. Teachers guide and model mini-lessons with individual students.

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

The ALEKS program has allowed me to work with smaller groups in the classroom.

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

Students are asked to work at home, libraries, and community centers.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We share ALEKS reports at parent/teacher conferences.

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?

Students are asked to complete 3–4 topics every Wednesday.

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

Yes, 3–4 topics an hour. Most of my fourth grade students can complete much more in a 60 minute block.

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?

We display our QuickTables certificates in the hall. The students are eager to master math facts and earn a certificate of mastery.