

Implementation Strategies

Williams Elementary School, Pittsfield Public Schools
Pittsfield, MA

Grade(s): K – 5

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: RtI, Enrichment/Gifted and Talented, Improve State Test Scores, At-Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 30%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 3 hours per week, 48 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables)

Michelle Cady, Teacher

ALEKS is used on a daily basis to provide support to 20 fourth grade students in my class. This includes core support, Response to Intervention (RtI), and enrichment. ALEKS has been a wonderful tool, helping the students move further with their learning. The kids love the programs and so do I!!

Scenario

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

The class faced learning gaps that were not consistent throughout the class. ALEKS has helped close those gaps.

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

4 days per week.

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

40 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We use ALEKS as core, RtI, and enrichment. We start each class using ALEKS. Each student is working at their own pace. ALEKS mirrors the state standards.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

The students work at their own level.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

The first 40 minutes of our class lesson are dedicated to ALEKS. During this time, I am able to work with small groups or individuals if needed.

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

With the help of ALEKS and all its reports, I can focus my time on the students' needs rather than just following lesson after lesson, whether or not it is needed. The reports really help teachers identify areas that were learned well or misunderstood.

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

Students are encouraged to work in ALEKS at home.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Yes, we cultivate parental involvement.

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?

20 percent of their grade is based on ALEKS.

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

Yes. Each student has different amounts of progress required. That is the great feature of ALEKS: it is an individualized student program.

Learning Outcomes

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

Since using ALEKS, students have had an easier time understanding new concepts and those that they did not totally understand; this has helped us to move forward in our curriculum. They feel that they have progressed with the help of ALEKS. They love going to the computer lab to work with ALEKS.