

Implementation Strategies

Skyline Ranch Elementary School, Florence Unified School District
Queen Creek, AZ

Grade(s): K – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Improve State Test Scores

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 30%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2.5 hours per week, 135 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Essential Mathematics (with QuickTables)

Beth Marschall, Teacher

My students are excited about their daily ALEKS time. Parents who have computer access are thrilled that their child can also do ALEKS at home. My students have made great progress in their math skills. ALEKS is a great differentiation teaching tool.

Scenario

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

Low test scores, as well as challenging each student at his or her level.

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

5 days per week.

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

30 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

It is the differentiation component we incorporate.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

We go to a computer lab for 30 minutes daily. Math is also taught for an hour in the classroom.

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

During review time, I introduce strategies for problems that students encounter in ALEKS that seem to need more explanation.

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

I offer homework passes to students for every 30 minutes they do ALEKS at home. They are required to send me an email from their ALEKS account stating what they did and for how long.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I talk with parents during conferences about the "ALEKS Advantage!"

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, because many students do not have home computers.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

I have not done this yet.

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

Yes, I keep track of which students focus more intently, and I hold conferences with students every couple of weeks.

Learning Outcomes

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

Some of my students are making small gains, but most of my students are making large gains in their knowledge and understanding of math problems. The students are excited to see their progress toward their goals.

Best Practices

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

It works!