

Implementation Strategies

Skyline Ranch Elementary School, Florence Unified School District
San Tan Valley, AZ

Grade(s): K – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 10%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 3–4 hours per week, 70 hours per term

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

Jona McDowell, Teacher

I love the fact that as a teacher, I don't have to oversee each individual student's work – ALEKS takes care of all of that. I appreciate that each student is working on the material they need to work on. Since beginning ALEKS, my students have taken their existing Benchmarks, and my intervention students who struggled the most in math had the biggest gains. The students like that they are working at their own pace. They like Fridays because they get to work in QuickTables and play the games.

Scenario

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

We faced the challenge of individualizing for each student.

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?

40 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I use it as a part of my core teaching time so that I know each student gets whole group work, as well as individual work time.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

Yes, I follow our textbook's format.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

It rotates into our curriculum each day.

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

I modified it so that each student gets time to work on the areas that are giving them trouble.

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

Every chance they get.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We give prizes to students that pass each level.

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?

Not yet.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

It is not part of the grading system.

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

We encourage them to progress at their level only.

Learning Outcomes

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

Since beginning ALEKS, my students have taken their existing Benchmarks, and my intervention students who struggled the most in math had the biggest gains. The students like that they are working at their own pace. They like Fridays because they get to work in QuickTables and play the games.

Best Practices

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

You have to believe in it so that they will also believe in it.