

Implementation Strategies

Harriet Bishop Elementary School, Burnsville Public School District
Savage, MN

Grade(s): K – 6

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Intervention, Special Education, At-Risk Students, Core Curriculum

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 40%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2 hours per week, 40 hours per term

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

Jill Miller, Special Education Teacher

ALEKS has been such a useful tool for my students. They are motivated to work on QuickTables, play the games, and complete their pie! I have never used such a motivating program! This is exactly what most of my students with special education needs require to be successful during a 60-minute math block. I use ALEKS for 30 minutes each day; the math block flies by each day and my students have gone from hating math to loving it! My students have all made progress on their Individual Education Plan (IEP) goals!

Scenario

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

Too long of a block for some students, as well as too many students for effective support.

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?

30 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

ALEKS is used by general education and I needed something to help my students close the gap. I asked my principal and he supported it! My students have all made progress on their IEP goals!

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

For the first 30 minutes, half of the class goes on ALEKS with adult support, and I teach the other half of the students. Students are placed in specific groups depending on the skills they need to learn based on their assessments.

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

My district's scope and sequence informed the topics we cover in ALEKS. If we are going to be working on geometry, I have students work on that section of their pie.

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

I challenge them to work on ALEKS for 20 minutes, three times a week.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I inform parents about the ALEKS website, and that their students can log in from home on the Internet.

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?

I do not incorporate ALEKS into grades.

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

No, students can work at their own pace since they have IEPs.

Learning Outcomes

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

I have seen students that used to rely on multiplication grids finally understand multiplication! They love the certificates, ALEKS Pie, and games! My students have all made progress on their IEP goals!