

Implementation Strategies

Atkinson Elementary School, Griffin–Spalding County Schools
Griffin, GA

Grade(s): K – 5

Scenario: Computer Lab, Computers in Classroom

Purpose: RtI, At-Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 40%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2.5 hours per week, 22.5 hours per term

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

Yvonne Harris, Teacher

My Early Intervention Program students were given the opportunity to use ALEKS as a supplement to their regular math instruction. The students have been very motivated to set goals and their phobia for math seems to decrease as they meet and set new goals. The biggest success comes from my student who was the first to complete his ALEKS pie; he also exceeded standards on our state testing. This was such a joy because unlike most students, the students in my classroom do not have access to computers at home or outside of the school settings. I am sure that it was with the help of ALEKS that my students who completed their pies met standards on state testing.

Scenario

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

One of the main challenges was getting rid of the phobias about math and finding a consistent way to truly monitor success and growth.

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

2 days per week.

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

45 Minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I use ALEKS as a preview, guided practice, and independent practice in my curriculum.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

I use the county-wide pacing guide as the order to introduce topics in ALEKS.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

My students receive 45 minutes at least two days a week in the computer lab with ALEKS. They are also given an additional 25 minutes per day in the classroom.

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

I use the lesson in the explain section of ALEKS as a guide to introducing new skills.

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

My students are encouraged to work in ALEKS at home, but because they do not have computers, I print ALEKS worksheets for them to use.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I provide my parents with frequent updates on their child's success in ALEKS. I also used ALEKS worksheets as part of homework assignments.

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?

If a skill needs to be reviewed.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

I do not use ALEKS for grading.

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

Yes, students chart their growth and set goals based on their daily progress in ALEKS.

Learning Outcomes

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

Since using ALEKS, the learning outcomes have shown a significant increase in Number Sense and Computation skills for my students. By using ALEKS as a preview of skills to be taught, as guided practice for those skills, and finally as independent practice of skills, the students gained a deeper understanding of many math concepts. The students had many celebrations of success in ALEKS. They have been very encouraging to one another and they love when the celebrations include multiple successful students. They are careful to listen for their names called on the morning announcements each Monday for their gains in ALEKS.

Best Practices

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

One thing I would like to share is to use ALEKS often and celebrate often.