

Implementation Strategies

Ocean Knoll Elementary School, Encinitas Union School District
Encinitas, CA

Grade(s): K – 6

Scenario: Computer Lab, Computers in Classroom, Home Access

Purpose: Enrichment/Gifted and Talented, Supplement

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1–3 hours per week, 10–20 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Pre–Algebra, Algebra 1, High School Geometry

Barin McGrath, Teacher

We have used ALEKS for the last four years with our advanced students. It is a rigorous program that has been a valuable resource for us.

Scenario

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

We struggled with finding a program that could challenge and expand the math curriculum for our advanced students. We also wanted to give them an opportunity for home access.

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?

15 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We provided licenses to all of our advanced students in grades 3–6.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

It is often used for students who pre–test out of topics and as homework to expand or enrich.

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

Teachers are able to have better math group rotations. They are also able to use ALEKS as homework.

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

A couple of times per week, if not daily.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Through reports sent home on student progress with ALEKS.

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?

Sometimes.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

I do not.

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

Students set goals per trimester.

Learning Outcomes

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

We have had tremendous success with ALEKS. Our gifted students are able to go as far as they want in their math exploration. They love learning new things and having the opportunity to move as fast as possible.

Best Practices

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

Have students set their own goals, and track student progress through conferences every couple of weeks.