

Implementation Strategies

Haman Elementary School, Santa Clara Unified School District
Santa Clara, CA

Grade(s): K – 5

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 40%

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

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Middle School Math Course 2

Cathy Carvalho, Teacher

We started only a few months ago, but the improvements and learning I am witnessing in my students make me excited and amazed. My students are exposed to curriculum that I don't teach until the end of the year. They are more prepared for tests and my teaching because of the topics ALEKS covers. Students are very proud of the pie pieces they fill in. They are motivated to make progress and can see that they are doing so daily.

Scenario

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

Differentiation is difficult when some students are at a second grade level while others are at a middle school level.

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?

50 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

ALEKS allows students to choose their curriculum so that they can learn at their own pace.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

I will tell them when QuickTables is available to use. Other than that, they choose their own strands.

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

I use the ALEKS progress reports to guide my instruction.

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

Daily.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We just started, but next year we will demonstrate it at Back-to-School Night.

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 not all of my students have access to computers or the Internet.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

We grade on a standards-based report, so I use the grading to give me an overview of how students are doing in various strands or

skills.

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

No, my students are motivated on their own.

Learning Outcomes

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

My students are exposed to curriculum that I don't teach until the end of the year. They are more prepared for tests and my teaching because of the topics ALEKS covers. Students are very proud of the pie pieces they fill in. They are motivated to make progress and can see that they are doing so daily.

Best Practices

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

I think that instruction can be differentiated more easily by using the ALEKS progress reports. Teach what they need, as they need it.