

Implementation Strategies

Sidney Elementary School, Sidney Community Schools
Sidney, IA

Grade(s): 3 – 7

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1 hour per week, 9 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Middle School Math Course 2

Helen Pollock, Teacher

In general, I am satisfied with ALEKS.

Scenario

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

It is extremely difficult to individualize instruction for each student. ALEKS does that! It is hard to keep track of each student's success and/or learning rate without ALEKS.

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?

I have students use ALEKS in addition to our regular curriculum.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

In the past I have let students pick and choose at random. Lately, I've been limiting them to certain sections of the pie.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

I work with small groups while other students work on ALEKS.

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

The only modification I have made is that I use less worksheets to keep kids busy because they are on ALEKS instead. It allows me to work with small groups at the same time.

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

They are encouraged to work on it at home for at least one hour per week, but it is not required. Not all of my students have computer or Internet access at home.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I have mentioned it at parent/teacher conferences and in class email notifications.

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 use ALEKS in my grades.

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

No. They are encouraged, but not required.

Learning Outcomes

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

My students have a broader understanding of many facets of math. They know about "box and whisker plots," which I had never heard of! Students are excited when they finish a pie piece. Furthermore, the younger students especially like it.