

Implementation Strategies

Eisenhower Elementary, Dubuque Community School District
Dubuque, IA

Grade(s): K – 5

Scenario: Computers in Classroom, Home Access

Purpose: Enrichment/Gifted and Talented

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, Middle School Math Course 3, Pre–Algebra, High School Preparation for Algebra 1, Algebra 1, High School Geometry

Mary Jane Meade, Gifted Talented Facilitator

In my district, ALEKS is used for students who are accelerated in math. If data indicates students are able to move ahead one year, the ALEKS tutorials are perfect for filling the gaps in mathematics instruction. Students are demonstrating several years' growth on standardized assessments. Upon completion of a unit of study, students feel proud when I advance them to the next class level.

Scenario

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

We weren't sure how to fill in the gaps in learning for students ready to accelerate.

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?

30 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

ALEKS is part of the acceleration process.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

On days when the teacher is unable to meet with small groups of accelerated students, ALEKS is utilized for instruction.

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

The accelerated students meet with a teacher three times per week, and the other two days are supplemented with ALEKS.

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

Students are encouraged to work at least one hour per week at home.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Parents monitor the weekly hour requirement. Reports are sent home for parents to observe progress.

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?

ALEKS is not considered homework but rather a means to cover topics missed during the acceleration process.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

ALEKS is not factored into student grades.

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

Students cover the material for the years of instruction they miss. For example, if they accelerate from third grade to fifth grade, ALEKS is used as a tutorial for the fourth grade curriculum.

Learning Outcomes

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

Students are demonstrating several years' growth on standardized assessments. Upon completion of a unit of study, students feel proud when I advance them to the next class level.

Best Practices

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

Most students enjoy the program and do not need much encouragement. However, some students require constant monitoring. The reports provide an easy way to keep kids accountable.