

Implementation Strategies

Lincoln Elementary School, Ellensburg School District
Ellensburg, WA

Grade(s): K – 5

Scenario: Computers in Classroom

Purpose: Enrichment/Gifted and Talented

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 80–100%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 7.5 hours per week

ALEKS Course: Middle School Math Course 3, Pre–Algebra, Algebra 1

Kaley Repp, Teacher

I started the school year with four students who had scored over 500 points on their fourth grade Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) test, and passed our fifth grade entrance exam with a 90 percent or better. I wanted to continue challenging these students; however, my school did not have a curriculum option for advanced students. After learning about the use of ALEKS in my district for at-risk students, I determined I could easily apply it for my advanced students. It has been an excellent resource for the students in my room who need additional resources to push them farther.

Scenario

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?

90 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

My four students who use ALEKS pre-test for each of our math units during the year. If they score an 85 percent or better, they test "out" of that unit and use ALEKS, while the rest of the class works on our on-level math.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, the students decide.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

My students who use ALEKS work on the program for the entire math time, while I teach the rest of the class.

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

It is at their discretion.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

The parents are provided with information about ALEKS and are given quarterly updates on their student's 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?

No.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

My students are excused from the unit grades if they test out. Our district report cards are standards-based, and these students all exceed the expectations so they receive the highest grade.

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

No, but we meet to discuss their growth and progress.

Learning Outcomes

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

One student has moved through three grade levels of math and is on their fourth class. Three students have mastered the next year's math. All four of the students I have in my class who use ALEKS love the program and are disappointed when they do not get to use it. Also, they use the program at home and constantly "max" out their allotted QuickTables time.