

Implementation Strategies

Oakdale Elementary School and Skyview Elementary School, North St. Paul–Maplewood–Oakdale School District
Oakdale, MN

Grade(s): K – 5

Scenario: Computer Lab, Home Access

Purpose: Enrichment/Gifted and Talented

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 50–60%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 5 hours per week, 60 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables)

Stephanie Clark, SAIL and Young Scholars Resource Teacher

We use ALEKS to provide enrichment and challenging curriculum to select third, fourth, and fifth grade students. For students who use ALEKS consistently, they move up one to two grade levels in math. Most students are very engaged with ALEKS and look forward to working on the computer both at school and home.

Scenario

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

Although we are able to utilize flexible grouping to meet the needs of most students, there are still those for whom differentiation is not enough. They need to be challenged beyond the highest learners.

How many days per week is class time dedicated to ALEKS?

6 days per week.

What is the average length of a class period when ALEKS is used?

30–40 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Classroom teachers approach me with the names of students excelling well beyond their peers. I also monitor Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments for top math students.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students participate in classroom lessons on their areas of weakness. They then use ALEKS when the classroom topic is one that they have mastered, in lieu of the regular homework assignment, or as home practice.

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

We encourage them daily.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

The classroom teacher works as the liaison between school and home.

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?

In some cases, ALEKS can be as much as 80 percent of a student's math homework.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

Their ALEKS scores are averaged in with other classwork.

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

Currently we are letting the students move at their own pace. They have been very motivated and have made great gains.

Learning Outcomes

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

Students who use ALEKS consistently move up one to two grade levels in math. Most students are very engaged with ALEKS and look forward to working on the computer both at school and home.