

Implementation Strategies

Shaffer Elementary School, Jeffco Public Schools
Littleton, CO

Grade(s): K – 5

Scenario: One-to-One Laptop Program

Purpose: Intervention, Enrichment/Gifted and Talented

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 30–40%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2 hours per week, 24 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables)

Karrie Hill, Teacher

The first year I used ALEKS in my classroom, it was used for remediation with a few low-achieving math students. The students were able to access the program at home for additional help, which many parents appreciated. This year, I use ALEKS as an extension activity for an advanced student who was never challenged in math until I introduced him to ALEKS. He loves the program and begs to use it!

Scenario

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

Each student had different holes in their learning which made it difficult to move on to more difficult topics without filling in these gaps.

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

3 days per week.

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

20–30 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

As an extended lesson of what we are already learning at that time.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

If my advanced student shows mastery of a topic I am covering in class, he logs into ALEKS while I practice the topic with the rest of the class.

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

I introduce lessons and check for understanding with the student, and then I allow him to work independently with ALEKS. I am there to help if he does not understand something, and I give him extension homework on the same topic I am teaching him.

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

He is encouraged to use it at home all the time.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I let the parents know about ALEKS and share with them that our school has paid for the student to have access to this program.

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?

Sometimes when I do not have another extension activity for my student to do at home, I tell him to work on ALEKS. He loves having homework in ALEKS.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

I do not incorporate ALEKS.

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

I do not require any regular amounts.

Learning Outcomes

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

My advanced student loves ALEKS! This year, he is finally learning math instead of just practicing math. It is amazing for him to be excited again about math class. In addition, my remediation students scored Proficient on the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) after using ALEKS.