

Implementation Strategies

Peak to Peak Charter School, Boulder Valley School District
Lafayette, CO

Grade(s): K – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: RtI, Intervention, At-Risk Students, Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 40%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2 hours per week, 30 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables)

Kimberly Struck, Teacher

I teach an enrichment math course for students who have been identified as a year or more below grade level. We use ALEKS in this class to fill gaps and support current learning. To keep students interested in ALEKS the whole year, I post student results and have individual and class rewards as they reach certain milestones. I also use the ALEKS Quiz function to choose topics and give students the opportunity to do practice quizzes on the content that they are learning in class.

Scenario

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?

25–40 minutes.

Implementation

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

I try to cover the lower level topics first, introducing new topics as they are covered in class.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students use QuickTables and work on their pie for approximately 20 minutes. On block days, I set up stations with ALEKS as one available station. This helps me to work in smaller groups with other students. Each Friday, students take a progress assessment.

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

The class is more individually paced and differentiated, as I now use more stations to provide small group instruction and one-on-one check-ins with students while other students are engaged.

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

None. Because this is a second math class, we do not require additional homework.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I don't.

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?

ALEKS is 30 percent of the grade.

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

Yes.

Learning Outcomes

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

The program is the most effective when I use motivation, set goals, and instill competition between the students based on their overall progress. The competition and group goals help keep the students working. In addition, I have found that it is good to mix things up a bit by having frequent assessments every 1–2 weeks. This has provided good results with my students to give them the instant gratification they need to stay motivated. I also discuss with the students the difference between mastered topics and those they need to continue working on if they lose topics from their pie, reinforcing the need for consistent practice.