

Implementation Strategies

Southeast Fountain Elementary School, Southeast Fountain School Corporation
Veedersburg, IN

Grade(s): K – 6

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Enrichment/Gifted and Talented, After-School, At-Risk Students, Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 40%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 3 hours per week, 135 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, Algebra 1

Hope Conrad, Teacher

ALEKS has been wonderful for my students! It pushes the higher ability students and gives them the enrichment they need. It also helps the lower ability students feel successful; I have seen students who typically struggled in math score a lot higher on tests. The students are very excited to come back to the classroom and tell me what they have mastered. We had a couple of students who moved in to our district this year who were not having any success in math. Once they saw that they were mastering concepts on ALEKS, their confidence soared and their attitude has done a complete 180. We are lucky to have a 90-minute math block. Forty-five minutes are spent on classroom instruction and 45 minutes are in the ALEKS lab.

Scenario

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

It was difficult to challenge all students and provide them with math at their level. Now it is a breeze.

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?

45 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We divide the blocks in half. Half have classroom instruction while the other half does ALEKS.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

My students are in three blocks. Within the blocks, they are divided into two groups. One group stays with me for class instruction, while the other group goes to lab. Then we switch in the middle of the block.

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

I would keep track of which pieces of the pie most were struggling with and really focus on those during the school year.

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

It is not required.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

The parents receive a letter at the beginning of the school year with information about ALEKS. Then it is up to them if they want to push it at 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?

No.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

ALEKS progress is 15 percent of their grade.

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

Each nine weeks, they should complete 25 percent of the level they are on. Most complete a lot more. I'm lucky to have a teacher in the lab that keeps track of this for me.

Learning Outcomes

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

I have seen students who typically struggled in math score a lot higher on tests. The students are very excited to come back to the classroom and tell me what they have mastered.

Best Practices

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

ALEKS should not be your entire curriculum. Use it as a resource only.