

Implementation Strategies

Elk Ridge Elementary School, White River School District
Buckley, WA

Grade(s): K – 5

Scenario: Computers in Classroom

Purpose: Enrichment/Gifted and Talented

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 80%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1–2 hours per week, 14 hours per term

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

Anne-Marie Allpress, Teacher

I use ALEKS to supplement our math curriculum for a high achieving student. I see the student push herself to gain skills in a concept that is challenging. She has grown 1.5 years in math concepts in just seven months. She likes the rigor of the curriculum and the way it trains her. As her teacher, I touch base daily to make sure she is grasping the concepts, but she is able to get most concepts through the online instruction. She likes to print out the homework, work on it at home, and show her parents. Her math skills have become even stronger, and her confidence to solve challenging problems has grown. I have been very satisfied with the rigor the curriculum has given this student.

Scenario

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

What to do with the students who already grasped the math concepts taught and were getting 100 percent on most of our pre-assessments.

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?

30 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

It is used as a core replacement for my highly capable student.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, I let my student choose her topics. She works on one area so she can master all of the concepts.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

My student gets the introduction of the concepts taught, and then does her ALEKS work on the computer.

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

My student does not need to do the independent practice for our classroom assignment.

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

She does paper homework at home printed from the ALEKS program.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I send home the reports to the parents, and they appreciate the paper homework.

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?

Yes, it is 40 percent.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

I use the reports to see what math standards were covered and the percentage she grasped for the reporting period. Now that she's working on higher grade level concepts, she is getting the Exceeds Expectations score on her standardized testing.

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

My student and I have conferences to look over her goals in math. She is highly motivated so is willing to push herself.

Learning Outcomes

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

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Best Practices

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

Sometimes she needs more guided practice than she thinks, so I set up the time to review her concepts every few days in case she isn't giving herself enough practice time before an assessment.