

Implementation Strategies

Oliver Elementary School, Stamford Independent School District
Stamford, TX

Grade(s): K – 5

Scenario: Computer Lab, Computers in Classroom, Home Access

Purpose: Intervention, Enrichment/Gifted and Talented, Improve State Test Scores, At-Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1.5 hours per week, 36 hours per term

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

Linda Anders, Teacher

ALEKS is the best remediation and accelerated program I have ever experienced with my students. It's a wonderful tool for students who move to the district with learning gaps in math, and an excellent program for the gifted and talented students to excel.

Scenario

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

We had low state test scores, and our new students came with gaps in mathematics. We also had difficulty accelerating learning.

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

1 day per week

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

90 minutes

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

ALEKS is used as a supplemental program.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

ALEKS is used weekly in the computer lab.

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

I constantly make connections to their learning in ALEKS while teaching math in the classroom.

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

I encourage it as much as possible if they have computer access. If they do not have access, our computer lab is open 30 minutes before school each day.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I update parents with letters on the students' progress in the program throughout the year. I also print ALEKS student reports for parent conferences.

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?

The goals for completion that result in a grade are 25 percent at mid–first semester, 50 percent for end of the first semester, 75 percent at mid–second semester, and 100 percent for end of the second semester.

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.

Students have confidence in mathematics and are extremely motivated. They are very proud of their accomplishments in math, which have brought success into our math classroom.

Best Practices

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

Share your excitement and reward progress. I have a racetrack on the wall divided into ten percent increments. As students progress in the program, they move their race car along the track, allowing them to see their own progress. This is the greatest tool for my students to be able to monitor their own progress. They work hard to be that leading race car.