

Implementation Strategies

Luella Elementary School, Henry County Schools
Locust Grove, GA

Grade(s): K – 5

Scenario: Computer Lab, Computers in Classroom, Home Access

Purpose: Improve State Test Scores, Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 70%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2 hours per week

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Middle School Math Course 2, Pre–Algebra, Algebra 1

Charles Stubbs, Jr., Teacher

Wow! Using ALEKS has been one of the best things ever to happen to me. This program is outstanding and my students test scores and grade level performance prove it! For the past two years now, my class has used ALEKS, and we have led the district in math scores. I want my students to be successful and feel confident and that is what I get with the program.

Scenario

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

I think that the students seemed to lack confidence and there was a level of mastery that seemed to be missing.

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

5 days per week.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I use ALEKS as a support tool, and I back up the program with very specific instruction.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, I encourage my students to make their individual pies grow evenly instead of just isolating one area.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

I support the program with active in–class instruction. We use the math lab and computers in the classroom, allowing students to rotate while I offer direct instruction to students who are not working on ALEKS.

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

I have become more of a math coach than a teacher. I adjust according to my students' needs, based on the data I receive from ALEKS.

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

They must complete 2 to 2.5 hours per week.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I champion the cause from the beginning of school and I make personal phone calls to parents. During the beginning of the year I have an ALEKS night where we have pizza and fun along with some real dedicated, concentrated work on the 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?

Yes, in most cases ALEKS is homework, but I also support it with some review work.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

ALEKS is 20 percent of the grade.

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

Yes, although it varies since each student is an individual. I expect them to make progress, so we set class goals and we celebrate as students advance.

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

My students really seem to love ALEKS. I constantly get emails from students who are excited about their progress. I had three students exceed the most recent district-wide benchmark assessment. There were only ten students in the district to achieve this out of some 20 schools. My students as a class scored in the 97th percentile on our spring Star Math test; that was an increase of nine percentile points from the fall. At our school, we also have days where students who have advanced by a grade level in ALEKS can throw pies at the administrators – it has been great.

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

Continue to work and teach – don't expect ALEKS to do your job as a teacher. Also, contact parents and students to encourage and expect results.