

Implementation Strategies

Brookeland Independent School District
Brookeland, TX

Grade(s): K – 12

Scenario: One-to-One Laptop Program

Purpose: Special Education

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 100%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 5 hours per week, 30 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Foundations of High School Math, High School Geometry, Algebra 2

Carol MacLeod, Special Ed Teacher

I love ALEKS in my classroom. My granddaughter also used ALEKS to prepare for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) Test and successfully passed. I love how ALEKS is self-paced.

Scenario

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

Teaching geometry and functions was a challenge.

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

5 days per week.

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

40 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

It is our only source of math curriculum in our Special Ed class.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

We start with an area of the pie and circle around it as ALEKS allows, mastering one area before advancing to the next.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students have their own laptop and work at their own pace, while the teacher monitors and assists as needed. The teacher also creates worksheets once a week for a grade and assigns ALEKS assessments every grading period.

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

The students are able to concentrate more on their weak areas and not spend too much time on areas they already know; they can work at their own pace.

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

Never. Many do not have computers 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?

I assigned worksheets from ALEKS once a week for grades.

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

No.

Learning Outcomes

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

Several students passed the TAKS test that thought they never would due to ALEKS. Most students seemed to love the program.

Best Practices

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

Make sure that the students are being monitored while on the computer. I feel ALEKS is a wonderful program.