

Implementation Strategies

Woodland Elementary School, Henry County Schools
Stockbridge, GA

Grade(s): K – 5

Scenario: Computer Lab, Computers in Classroom, Home Access

Purpose: RtI, After-School, Special Education, Improve State Test Scores

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 10–80%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1 hour per week, 6 hours per term

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

Allison Griffith, Assistant Principal

We implemented the ALEKS program with 53 of our struggling learners in third through fifth grade this past year. These students are either special needs students, students in the Student Support Team/Response to Intervention (SST/RTI) process, or students who scored in the lower range on the state assessment in math during the previous school year. Over the course of the school year, the students use ALEKS in their classroom as a supplement to their direct math instruction at least three times per week for 20 minutes per day. Most of them also use ALEKS as part of an afterschool tutorial program for 2–3 days per week. We have weekly competitions for students who earn the most gains, and offer prizes to the winners. We also offer a popcorn party to anyone who completes their pie before our state assessment test. As a result of using the ALEKS program, 75.5 percent of the 53 students showed gains on the state assessment in the area of math! This is proof to us that the ALEKS program really does make a difference and positively impacts student achievement!

Scenario

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?

20 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Students who are in tier 3 of the SST/RTI process use ALEKS as a supplement to their direct math instruction for 20 minutes per day, three days a week.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, not at this time. It is self-directed by the students.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students use ALEKS during the independent practice portion of the lesson or during any extra time during the school day (for example, arrival and dismissal times).

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

We continued to implement our regular pacing guide and methods of instruction. However, ALEKS provides teachers more guidance on which students to pull for small group work and one-on-one remediation based on each student's pie chart.

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

As often as possible!

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We offered a parent brochure on how to use ALEKS 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, not at this time.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

We do not use ALEKS as part of our grading system at this time.

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

There is not a specific amount of progress because it depends on the individual student. Progress is monitored weekly and rewards are offered for students who are showing the most gains.

Learning Outcomes

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

75.5 percent of our students who used ALEKS over the course of the year showed gains on their state assessment test scores at the end of the school year; the majority of these students have special needs. Students track their progress on ALEKS by printing their pies weekly and turning them in. We offer rewards for students who make the most progress each week and a party for those who complete their pie by the end of the school year. Using creative rewards like these motivate our students to track their learning and to make progress.

Best Practices

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

Offering before- and after-school times to use ALEKS, while also offering rewards for progress, made a difference at our school!