

Implementation Strategies

Friendly Hills Elementary School, Morongo Unified School District
Joshua Tree, CA

Grade(s): K – 6

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Intervention, Improve State Test Scores, At-Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1 hour per week, 10 hours per term

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

Karen McManaman, Teacher

We have had the ALEKS program at our school for about three years. It has dramatically improved our state test scores in math. We even had several students achieve perfect scores on the state testing, and we believe it is due to using the ALEKS program throughout the year. As long as the school can afford it, I will continue to use ALEKS weekly in our computer lab.

Scenario

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

Low test scores and not enough practice of basic math skills.

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?

Varies.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Mostly through weekly computer lab time. Students are also allowed to work on ALEKS at home.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students do independent practice in textbooks and then work on the ALEKS program.

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

Some lessons do not need to be taught in full, depending on whether the students have already covered the subject in ALEKS.

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

Every day.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We discuss ALEKS at Back-to-School Night and 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, just as a supplement.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

I don't really use it as a grade.

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.

Students like to keep track of their progress on the pie charts and also compete with each other to finish their pie slices first. Students who work diligently with the program learn skills that were already presented in class, reinforce skills, and sometimes learn skills before it is presented in class. This allows the students to become more confident in learning standards-based math skills.

Best Practices

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

Allow students to work on ALEKS when they are finished with other work. I use it as a computer center in my classroom.