

Implementation Strategies

Ovando School, Ovando Elementary School District
Ovando, MT

Grade(s): K – 8

Scenario: Computers in Classroom, Home Access

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

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 40%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1.5 hours per week, 40 hours per term

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

Kara Briggeman, Teacher

We have really benefited from using ALEKS in the classroom. I teach several grades, and it works so well to have rotations: one group of students with me, one group working individually on worksheets, and one group on ALEKS on the computers. I was even able to have younger kids sign up for the third grade ALEKS course, and it is perfect because it challenges them without going beyond their ability level. I also had the kids do QuickTables at home. Overall, I have seen huge growth in the students' confidence in their math abilities. They really enjoy the independence of learning at their own pace. They also love coming across something in a chapter in the book that they have already learned in ALEKS.

Scenario

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

The biggest obstacle was making sure that every student received math teaching at his or her level, which is a common difficulty in multi-age classrooms.

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

4 days per week.

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

20 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I had students watch me login and I explained a little about the program to them. From then on, they have had no trouble using ALEKS.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

I use rotations, putting different leveled students together. One group is doing ALEKS on the computer, one group is working with me on specific math skills, and the third group is working independently on an assignment from the textbook or on an ALEKS worksheet.

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

I use ALEKS as a regular rotation station.

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

They must do 15 minutes on QuickTables three times per week. They are also allowed to work on their pies at home.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I have them sign a sheet verifying that their child did their 15 minutes of QuickTables and has shown their parents their pies and the topics they learned once per week.

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?

QuickTables is roughly 60–75 percent of the homework load.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

I grade ALEKS worksheets the same as regular daily assignments.

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.

I have seen huge growth in the students' confidence in their math abilities. They really enjoy the independence of learning at their own pace. They also love coming across something in a chapter in the book that they have already learned in ALEKS.

Best Practices

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

Nothing specific, but the rotations work really well!