

Implementation Strategies

Walker Butte K–8 School, Florence Unified School District
San Tan Valley, AZ

Grade(s): K – 8

Scenario: Computers in Classroom

Purpose: Rtl, At-Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 50%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 500 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Middle School Math Course 2

Stephen Semo, Teacher

I have been in education for 34 years, and I believe ALEKS is the best available program to improve mathematics skills. Students have shown a great deal of growth on local and state assessments. I contribute most of this growth to the child's ability to take advantage of the program. Most students enjoy ALEKS and enjoy their success.

Scenario

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

With large classes, we had a very hard time meeting students' individual needs. ALEKS meets their needs.

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?

20 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We have 12 computers. We set up the class using learning centers, and ALEKS is one of the stations.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

I use a learning center–based model; thus, students use ALEKS for half of the class period.

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

Less whole group instruction and more with small groups.

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

We encourage them to work on ALEKS every night for 30 minutes. I offer bonus points.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We offer an ALEKS Night where the students and parents can come to school and play with 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?

ALEKS is extra credit if they do it at home.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

Approximately 50 percent of their math triage grade is ALEKS. A regular classroom would only count it as 30 percent or less.

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

We expect them to have a minimum of one percent growth each day. Extra growth is counted as extra credit.

Learning Outcomes

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

Students have shown a great deal of growth on local and state assessments. I contribute most of this growth to the child's ability to take advantage of the program. Most students enjoy ALEKS and enjoy their success.

Best Practices

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

When students complete a pie and are ready to go to the next level, they are rewarded with a miniature pie of their choice (apple, cherry, etc.). The kids love them.