

Implementation Strategies

Lake International School, Denver Public Schools
Denver, CO

Grade(s): 6 – 8

Scenario: Computers in Classroom

Purpose: RtI, Special Education, Improve State Test Scores, At-Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 25%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 3 hours per week

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Middle School Math Course 2, Pre-Algebra

Jerry Manuel Rael, Special Educator Teacher

ALEKS is very engaging and interactive, and is a great program for students. It is especially good for those on a lower tier. In addition, it is great for English Language Learners (ELL). It is exciting for students to measure their progress with their ALEKS Pies.

Scenario

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

Students were struggling with basic math facts, and more.

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?

45–90 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

It is used for special needs classes, specifically for inclusion and skills.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

We have long 90-minute blocks, with half of the time spent on ALEKS and the other half working on eighth grade curriculum.

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

I provide more visuals.

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

Yes, every day for 20 minutes or longer.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I present it at Back-to-School Night and at 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.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

It is 15 percent of the total grade.

Learning Outcomes

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

It is exciting for students to measure their progress with their ALEKS Pies.

Best Practices

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

Present incentives to motivate learning. I also set aside 45 minutes per day to use the projector and model concepts on ALEKS.