

Implementation Strategies

Parent Assisted Learning Program, North Kitsap School District
Poulsbo, WA

Grade(s): K – 12

Scenario: Online School, Home Access

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

Time Spent in ALEKS: 4 hours per week, 60 hours per term

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

Terrye Davenport, Advisor

Our experience with ALEKS has been outstanding! Middle school students who previously didn't think they were good at math have gained confidence. Students love to watch their pies grow as they build their skills and knowledge base. Additionally, the accelerated students enjoy that they don't have to repeat the same skills or practice skills they have already mastered. They are also free to set their own pace of learning.

Scenario

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

The students faced failure in school, low math scores on standardized tests, and lack of confidence.

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?

50 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Students who need a boost in their math skills or a challenge are invited to use ALEKS.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students may use the school computers or their home computer.

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

I allow some students to focus on ALEKS as their regular curriculum.

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

Students are required to work from home daily, especially if they are behind their grade-level math skills. I tell them it is not a "magic" program and that they will have to put in the hours and effort if they are to catch up or excel.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Parents are happy to support a program that students are excited about using and that allows students to review and work on the problems they miss on the worksheets. Parents also love the detailed reports.

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 the daily work of students who use it.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

I use their weekly progress and skill mastery to determine success. With a student who is behind, the successes may be smaller at first but we still celebrate them. This program is about building confidence as well as skill.

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

In our program, we require five documented hours of math work each week.

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

Some students say that before using ALEKS, math was their least favorite subject. Now, after using ALEKS, math has become their most favorite subject! Students are so proud of themselves when they move forward in their skills and knowledge.

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

Allow for a wide range when choosing classes and don't commit to just one level. You might be very surprised about what students can achieve in one school year if properly encouraged and motivated.