

Implementation Strategies

Sobesky Academy, Jefferson County Schools
Lakewood, CO

Grade(s): 1 – 12

Scenario: Computers in Classroom, Home Access

Purpose: At-Risk Students, Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1 hour per week, 18 hours per term

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

Jeff Johnson, Teacher

I am very pleased with ALEKS. My students use it as supplemental instruction and as work when they are suspended or gone for several days. I have seen math score improvement in areas I was unable to touch on during the year. Most kids get excited to see their progress as well.

Scenario

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

Attitude of kids who just don't like math and won't give any program a fair chance.

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?

20 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I use it as a supplement.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, student choice.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

I teach concepts, my aide supports general number sense, and the other group is on ALEKS. Then, we rotate.

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

Students use it as an independent learning tool.

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

One hour per night whenever they are not at school, and extra credit if done during the week.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

This is tough. Not all parents are involved in their kid's education. I have shown them the benefit and reward the kids.

Grading

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

I do not.

Learning Outcomes

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

Not only has there been progress, but students have also learned skills they thought they would never learn. They have increased number sense awareness and personal feelings of growth. Those who have put in the time have shown growth that has manifested itself in standardized tests and in classroom work. Kids are excited because they know the material and can help others.

Best Practices

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

Once kids get the hang of it, it is a great independent math learning tool with rewards for time in the program.