

Implementation Strategies

Delta Cyber School, Delta/Greely School District
Delta Junction, AK

Grade(s): K – 12

Scenario: Online School, Home Access

Purpose: Intervention, Enrichment/Gifted and Talented, Special Education, Core Curriculum

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 100%

Time Spent in ALEKS: Varies

ALEKS Course: All Math Courses

Sandra Schultz, Teacher

I have correspondence students in grades K–12 that are in ALEKS courses and I believe that all of our courses that use the program are the most successful. Students complete more of the ALEKS courses than any other course.

Scenario

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

I was not with this school before they started using ALEKS. However, I can tell you from being a regular school math teacher that having a program that allows students to learn at their own pace and teach them what they are ready learn is the best thing that ever happened to math.

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

Varies.

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

Varies.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We are an online school program, so students sign up to take the course and are on their own to finish it.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, I let students decide what they want to learn each day.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Each student independently uses ALEKS.

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

I have not since I do not teach in a regular school. All of my courses are online, distance learning courses.

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

Students are encouraged to work 1–2 hours a day on ALEKS.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Our parents chose to enroll their students in our school, so they know that ALEKS is the curriculum we offer for math. I do tell parents how to check their student's progress using the "Report" button in the Student Module.

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?

My students are all distance learning students, so I don't assign homework.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

Students need to get between 30–50 percent to earn a half credit for the first semester and they need to be between 60–100 percent to earn a half credit for the second semester.

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

I check student progress at each quarter and post a grade. I divide the percentage completed of their pie by the percentage of the school year completed. Students must have 60 percent completed to be passing.

Learning Outcomes

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

Most students like the ALEKS courses better than classroom math courses. Additionally, students finish ALEKS courses more than any other course.

Best Practices

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

Read the online manuals and be sure to ask questions. It is not worth trying to hunt for an answer when ALEKS has such helpful people who will answer questions by phone or email.