

Implementation Strategies

Lt. Clayre P. Sullivan Elementary School, Holyoke School District
Holyoke, MA

Grade(s): K – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab, Laptop Carts

Purpose: Intervention, Enrichment/Gifted and Talented, Special Education, At-Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1.5 hours per week, 11 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Middle School Math Course 2

Laura Scutt-Drohan, Teacher

Our experience has been very positive. When the students work on ALEKS, their math knowledge increases. They are pumped about their progress.

Scenario

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

Low-income, and varied math knowledge.

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

2 days per week.

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

50 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Slowly. I started two years ago with one class, and then increased to all classes. I have added a grading rubric this year.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

I spend two 50 minute blocks during a 90 minute class on ALEKS.

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

I rely on ALEKS to reach the students who are excelling. I take a student-centered approach.

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

As often as it takes to master eight topics.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We hold an evening tutorial.

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?

Yes, students are required to master eight topics in a week. If that is not done within the confines of 100 minutes, they need to do it at home or during office hours (afterschool help with me).

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

Mastering eight topics is worth eight percent. Documenting the amount of time, the number of topics worked on, and if they had difficulty is worth seven percent.

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

Yes, it is measured by the topics mastered in a week.

Learning Outcomes

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

When the students work on ALEKS, their math knowledge increases. They are pumped about their progress.

Best Practices

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

Be patient, and start slowly.