

Implementation Strategies

Colegio Internacional de Caracas, Private
Caracas, Venezuela

Grade(s): K – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2 hours per week, 15 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Pre–Algebra, Algebra 1, High School Geometry, Algebra 2

Kenneth Davis, Teacher

ALEKS has helped to enhance our school's math program. Our school does the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing, and we have seen a positive correlation with hours worked on ALEKS and student MAP scores. Our students' levels of academic preparation at each grade level are quite varied, and ALEKS helps us place students appropriately, and allows students to catch up or work ahead at their own pace.

Scenario

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

Our biggest challenge was trying to place the students in the correct grade level, as well as in the correct math course.

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?

30 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

ALEKS is used as a weekly assignment for the students; they are to complete two hours a week. We are able to use ALEKS as a center, for work time after tests, and sometimes, for substitutions.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, we use the order of the textbook, and the students follow along on ALEKS.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

ALEKS is used as a center within the classroom. Students are able to use ALEKS as a break from the lesson and group work.

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

I have needed to modify my teaching. We offer ALEKS as an add–on to the curriculum.

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

Students are required to work two hours per week on ALEKS. They have some time where they can use ALEKS at school, but they must use ALEKS at home in order to complete the requirement.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Parents are not involved with the program.

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 have three different homework assignments: ALEKS, online quizzes from the textbook, and a Web 2.0 application.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

ALEKS makes up about 20 percent of the students' grade.

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

The students are required to have 85 percent of their pie completed in order to move comfortably to the next grade level.

Learning Outcomes

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

The students have increased their MAP test scores by an average of ten percent. The students who are diligent and work hard on ALEKS are very happy with their progress. Other students who are more sporadic with the program tend to get frustrated when they log on.

Best Practices

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

I really suggest introducing ALEKS as a center in the classroom and allowing the students to try it out. Once the students and the teacher are comfortable with the program, they will find that there are so many more features to take advantage of, such as the worksheets and the online quizzes.