

Implementation Strategies

Colony Oak Elementary School, Ripon Unified School District
Ripon, CA

Grade(s): K – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Special Education, Intervention

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 100%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 4 hours per week, 30 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Pre–Algebra

Linda Cochran, Resource Specialist

The program is working for my special education students.

Scenario

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

The students I have on ALEKS did not possess the prerequisite knowledge to learn the required Pre–Algebra curriculum in a regular education setting.

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

4 days per week.

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

30–60 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I asked my administrator for permission to purchase it, and did so. Afterwards, I had students sign on and take the initial assessment, set minimum standards for student–time performance, and let them go online.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

Yes, we are working on two sections of their pie at a time.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

The first 30 minutes of the period is spent online with ALEKS. Students are required to take assessments in class, not home, which may take longer.

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

After using ALEKS, students now work independently and ask for assistance when needed.

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

They are required to use ALEKS Monday through Thursday, with extra time if they want extra credit.

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 part of the homework responsibility at 30 percent.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

We measure effort in terms of time spent on ALEKS at a reasonable learning rate, with a minimum of four problems learned per hour.

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

Students must have one-quarter of their pie completed by the end of each quarter, with half of their pie completed by the second quarter, and so on.

Learning Outcomes

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

I have a student in special education using ALEKS at this time, and they are doing better than expected due to spending the required amount of time on ALEKS. They are pleased with ALEKS.