

Implementation Strategies

Isaiah Academy for Excellence
Wailuku Maui, HI

Grade(s): 4 – 12

Scenario: Computers in Classroom

Purpose: Core Curriculum

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 95%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 3–6 hours per week (grades 4–7) and 6 hours per week (grades 8–12), 30 hours per term (grades 4–7) and 48 hours per term (grades 8–12)

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Middle School Math Course 2, Middle School Math Course 3, Pre–Algebra, Algebra 1, High School Geometry, Algebra 2

Kimberly Hays, Teacher

Our school is so pleased to have adopted ALEKS for our students. It has been rewarding to see our students truly seek to progress without the usual prodding and encouraging we have to do. Rather, they are able to learn to set goals, watch their progress, and determine what mastery really means. Students seem to be more confident and willing to attempt new material on their own. They do not seem as frustrated.

Scenario

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

Our school was faced with poor assessment practices and students being frustrated at the pace of learning; they were constantly waiting for one-on-one explanations.

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

5 days per week (grades 4–7) and 3 days per week (grades 8–12).

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

45–60 minutes (grades 4–7) and 120 minutes (grades 8–12).

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Each student receives a print out of their goals and ALEKS Pie after the initial ALEKS Assessment. Students take notes from each explanation and have a section with each of the terms; each section needs to reflect at least three sample problems.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

We follow the ALEKS pie in a clockwise order and follow each student's ready to learn topics.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

We use the same structure with our ALEKS courses that we use with our non-ALEKS courses. We expect students in all courses to take notes, review material with a partner on specified days, and sign up for individual review/assistance at least once a day.

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

The upper division students are required to work on ALEKS at home at least once a week.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

A report is reviewed during parent conferences and an update is sent home in our Communication Envelopes. Additionally, student progress reports reflect ALEKS work.

Grading

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

The students' grades are based on 80 percent balanced progress in topics ready to learn, 15 percent progress towards goals (based on notes, printed worksheets, and quizzes), and five percent participation, following directions, and completion of terms/definitions.

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

Progress is determined based on each student's level and measured according to daily goal sheets we use in class.

Learning Outcomes

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

Students seem to be more confident and willing to attempt new material on their own. They do not seem as frustrated.