

Implementation Strategies

Hillsdale High School, San Mateo Union High School District
San Mateo, CA

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computers in Classroom

Purpose: Intervention, Exit Exam, Improve State Test Scores, At-Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 1%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 5 hours per week, 90 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Foundations of High School Math, Algebra 1, High School Geometry, Algebra 2, PreCalculus, Trigonometry

Debra Stucke, Teacher

My experience with ALEKS has been very positive. I continue to be amazed at how students can sit and work for 30–60 minutes in ALEKS. I think it is because the work is right at their level of readiness.

Scenario

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

We didn't know what to do with kids who had low skill levels since we do not offer a math class lower than Algebra.

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?

50 minutes

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Students who are identified as behind or needing remediation always use ALEKS independently.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students work independently and receive teacher help as needed.

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

I don't.

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

Never required.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Parents understand that ALEKS is used to improve student skills so they are ready for the next level.

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?

No.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

Students keep a notebook and must pass assessments in our holistic grading system.

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

No.

Learning Outcomes

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

Students who were identified as borderline in terms of passing the exit exam, and worked a significant number of hours in ALEKS, scored higher than predicted on the exit exam. Students feel very positive about ALEKS. The pie chart keeps them motivated, especially when it shrinks after an assessment.