

Implementation Strategies

Liberty High School, Issaquah School District 411
Renton, WA

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Improve State Test Scores, Core Curriculum

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 90%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 3–5 hours per week, 50 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Algebra 1, High School Geometry

Andy Hall, Math Teacher

I have found it to be extremely helpful for the students. The individualized program really allows me to focus students in on their areas of improvement.

Scenario

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

Our students had very low Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) scores, as well as inadequate basic math skills.

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

2–3 days per week.

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

85 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We use ALEKS in our support classes, and have incorporated it as the main curriculum in those settings.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, students work independently.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students work the entire period in ALEKS with limited instruction time.

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

ALEKS has allowed me to provide much more individualized aid to each of my students.

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

I only encourage my students to work in ALEKS at home if they have overflow work that they need to catch up on from class.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I inform the parents of ALEKS and its capabilities using open houses and curriculum nights that the school hosts.

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?

For support classes, 40 percent is for items completed per day, and another 20 percent is for assessment improvement.

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

We require completing at least four items per day to receive an "A".

Learning Outcomes

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

The use of ALEKS in our support classes has allowed students to feel more comfortable in their regular math courses, specifically with concepts such as fractions, graphs, and math basics. The majority of the students really enjoy the opportunity to improve their skills.