

Implementation Strategies

Crossroads Alternative High School, Granite Falls School District
Granite Falls, WA

Grade(s): 10 – 12
Scenario: Computer Lab
Purpose: Supplement
ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Catherine Wagner, Teacher

I really enjoy using ALEKS. Our students are at so many different levels, it is hard to teach one lesson at a time. With ALEKS, they can work at their individual levels. Students feel successful in math!

Scenario

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

Our students were coming in with major gaps in their skill levels. They did not have math basics down, and all were at very different levels of study.

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?

45 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We were fortunate enough to receive a grant which funded a computer lab and helped to place all of our students onto the ALEKS program.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

We use ALEKS for 40 minute increments, usually twice per week.

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

When I began using ALEKS in the classroom, I modified my approach by dropping two days a week of textbook instruction.

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

We use ALEKS for all homework needs, and require five hours of homework to be completed weekly.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We have not taken any steps to fully incorporate parents into the process as of yet.

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?

One hour a week, minimum.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

ALEKS accounts for 50 percent of a student's grade.

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

We are focused in on getting used to the program, and haven't built any progress measurement structures at this time.

Learning Outcomes

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

Student learning has increased a great deal since we began implementing ALEKS. The students have responded in a very positive manner as well.