

Implementation Strategies

Hoover High School Freshman Campus, Hoover City Schools
Hoover, AL

Grade(s): 9

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: RtI, Intervention, At-Risk Students, Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 40%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1.6 hours per week, 28.8 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Essential Mathematics (with QuickTables), High School Preparation for Algebra 1, Algebra 1

Jennifer Ellen Johnson, Intervention Teacher

I have worked with ALEKS for two years now. My students take Algebra 1 and Power Algebra courses. Power Algebra is a course designed to help remediate students who need extra help. Power Algebra students spend two days a week on ALEKS. It is used to help review basic skills they learned in middle school and to reinforce any skills we are going over in class. ALEKS also helps the students review topics they are currently working on in their Algebra classroom. Students have greatly improved on the number of objectives they have mastered since starting on ALEKS, and they like seeing their pie charts fill up. Their basic skills are much better, and they have more confidence in their skills.

Scenario

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

It was a challenge to find a way to remediate students who needed a little extra help or review of basic skills.

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

2 days per week.

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

48 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We spend two class days in the computer lab working on ALEKS.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Right now, two days a week are spent in the computer lab for the entire class period.

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

Classroom instruction only occurs three days a week, on non-computer lab days.

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

They are encouraged but are never required to.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Showing parents reports from ALEKS is very helpful. It shows them exactly what their child can and cannot do, and it shows them what they are working on at that time.

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?

After each assessment, a grade is calculated based on the growth shown between assessments.

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

Yes, each student has a different goal based on where they started from.

Learning Outcomes

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

Students have greatly improved on the number of objectives they have mastered since starting on ALEKS, and they like seeing their pie charts fill up. Their basic skills are much better, and they have more confidence in their skills.

Best Practices

Are there any best practices you would like to share with other teachers implementing ALEKS?

Using QuickTables is helpful.