

Implementation Strategies

Eagle Academy, Joint School District 2
Eagle, ID

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: At-Risk Students, Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 50%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 3–5 hours per week, 70 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Pre–Algebra, Algebra 1, High School Geometry

Susan Christensen, Teacher

I find that the explanations that ALEKS gives are well-written and easy for my students to follow. My students enjoy watching the number of topics they complete go up and are constantly comparing their progress with their peers. They have a feeling of accomplishment when they reach that wonderful 'Done' key. The students like knowing what is expected of them daily.

Scenario

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?

70 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I have a lab class that works on the computers and has students that are in different classes. We use the program mostly as a supplement with struggling students.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No. By allowing students to pick the order of the topics they are learning, they are seeing how topics are related and how prior knowledge in math is vital. They quickly learn to move in order on their own.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students work on the computer every other day.

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

The students use ALEKS in a lab setting where they are all working on different math courses at different levels.

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

Students are not required to use ALEKS at home.

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?

ALEKS is 50 percent of a student's grade, while classwork and my test account for the remaining 50 percent.

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

Yes; I monitor student progress and their grades are a percentage of what should be done compared to what they have done.

Learning Outcomes

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

My students enjoy watching the number of topics they complete go up and are constantly comparing their progress with their peers. They have a feeling of accomplishment when they reach that wonderful 'Done' key. The students like knowing what is expected of them daily.