

Implementation Strategies

University High School of Science and Engineering, Hartford Public Schools
Hartford, CT

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computers in Classroom, Home Access

Purpose: Credit Recovery, Summer School, At-Risk Students, Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 8 hours per week, 50 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Algebra 1, High School Geometry, Algebra 2 with Trigonometry

Susan Pedrick, Teacher

I started using ALEKS with my remedial students to try to get them caught up, but now I'm starting to align it with my lessons by having weekly homework quizzes and extra practice. It's great because it gives the student instant feedback.

Scenario

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

We didn't really have a way to measure growth in students' math skills.

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

3 days per week.

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

70 minutes.

Implementation

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

Both; students can work freely and I set up homework quizzes that align with my curriculum.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Remedial students use ALEKS 100 percent of the time; other students take a homework quiz once a week and this can be done during free time in class or at home. They can also earn extra credit on ALEKS.

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

I have added homework quizzes using ALEKS.

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

Students are required to use ALEKS at home every night.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Parents are sent emails about their student's progress, or lack of.

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?

ALEKS is 50 percent of their homework.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

ALEKS Quizzes are worth 20 percent of their grade.

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

Each quarter I ask for a certain percentage of the pie chart to be completed. First quarter is 30 percent; second quarter is 50 percent; third quarter is still 50 percent; and fourth quarter I ask for certain pieces of the pie to be at 50 percent completion.

Learning Outcomes

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

Students have been able to close the gap between their math skills and the class' ability. Students are very proud of their success with the program and often ask me to check out their pie charts.