

Implementation Strategies

Excelsior Education Center, Victor Valley Union High School District
Victorville, CA

Grade(s): 7 – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab, Home Access

Purpose: Improve State Test Scores, Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 100%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 5 hours per week, 80 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Essential Mathematics (with QuickTables), Algebra Readiness

Amanda Chapman, Teacher

It's amazing to see students who had no interest in math whatsoever actually start to enjoy it. Students love being able to control what they learn and when. The pie chart is an amazing tool! Not to mention the grade transformations! Students who continuously use the ALEKS program advance tremendously on their test scores.

Scenario

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

Students who were not scoring well on their tests were becoming discouraged.

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

5 days per week.

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

55 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

It is assigned as a required elective for eighth and tenth grades. They have to use the program Monday through Friday for at least 40 minutes at a time to receive credit. Any other students who scored below 70 percent on a test are also assigned the program.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, students are allowed to choose what they want to learn from the pie chart.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

They use the program the entire period. If they are not in an on-campus class for ALEKS they are required to use it for the same amount of time at home each night.

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

ALEKS is an intervention tool I use with all students as needed.

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

Monday through Friday.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I call home to update parents on how students are doing and how often they are using it. We also review the pie charts at our meetings.

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?

It is a required daily activity.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

It is assigned as an elective course so the students progress on ALEKS counts for 100 percent of the grade they receive.

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

Yes, we calculate how many topics they should master based on the amount of time in each unit.

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

Students who continuously use the ALEKS program advance tremendously on their test scores. Students love being able to control what they learn and when. The pie chart is an amazing tool!

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

Don't give up on it! It might be a little tough to get the kids on board at first, but once they are, they are unstoppable!