

Implementation Strategies

Highland Park High School, Topeka Public Schools
Topeka, KS

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab, Laptop Carts

Purpose: Core Curriculum

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 90%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 6.25 hours per week, 110 hours per term

ALEKS Course: High School Preparation for Algebra 1, Algebra 1

Amy Gress, Teacher

My experience with ALEKS has been good. The kids are engaged by the material most of the time and seem to improve with each assessment they take. I really enjoy having the math games to help the students learn their math facts because many of my students still have trouble adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers. I see great improvement in their skills using ALEKS three times a week.

Scenario

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

The school did not have a math review curriculum, so ALEKS was our solution. ALEKS contains the basic Algebra concepts that the students need to learn, along with math facts practice and great teacher resources.

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?

75 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

ALEKS is the math review curriculum and is used every day.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, I keep with the ALEKS program.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

They start each day by working on their review concepts, and then they work on new lessons. Three days a week they work on the math fact games for 20 minutes at the end of class. On the other days they print out worksheets to complete as homework. Every week we take one class period and do an assessment of the material that they have been covering. At the end of every quarter they take a comprehensive assessment of the material.

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

I allow the students to work at their own pace, and I am there as a resource for them if they need me.

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

Many of our students do not have computers at home, so this is not encouraged that much.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Many of the parents are very supportive of our use of the ALEKS program and like that it is geared toward what the student knows and needs to learn.

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 part of their classwork responsibilities. The students do not have homework for this class.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

Their grades are based on the number of lessons completed over the course of a week, as well as the assessments, quizzes, and worksheets.

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

They are expected to make some progress, and it is measured by the assessments they take each week.

Learning Outcomes

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

After completing a semester with the ALEKS program, some of our students were able to go back into a regular Algebra class and receive math credit. Because their knowledge of basic Algebra concepts was already there, they were able to comprehend the Algebra curriculum better. Students are always happy to complete a new lesson and show progress in the program. Many of the students work very hard so they can switch courses. Those that do switch courses are very happy and proud of themselves for completing the ALEKS program.