

Implementation Strategies

Hempfield Senior High School, Hempfield School District
Landisville, PA

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computers in Classroom

Purpose: Intervention

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 25%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 6.7 hours per week

ALEKS Course: Pre-Algebra

Karen Zutell, Special Education Teacher

I am very pleased with my experience using ALEKS as a remediation tool for both my Algebra students and Consumer Math students. ALEKS is self-motivating, it raises student self-esteem, and it allows them to work independently at their own rate. ALEKS reinforces the skills taught in class, and it gives students a higher level of confidence when doing math in the core curriculum. Students were hesitant at first to try something new, but once they saw progress in their pie, their enthusiasm and increased confidence challenged them to proceed to topics that they might not have chosen at first.

Scenario

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

We did not have a good progress monitoring tool to ascertain the needs of students nor the progress made in all mathematical areas.

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

1 day per week.

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

80 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I place the students on ALEKS every Friday as a review of concepts taught during the week.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

My students use ALEKS every Friday. Also, if they have available time during study hall, they can access it at that time.

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

I use the same curriculum as a regular education teacher, although I teach to the ability levels of all the students in the classroom. ALEKS helps me differentiate in order to meet their needs.

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

As often as they can. Many of my students do not have Internet access.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I am trying to do this in the future.

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?

I only use ALEKS when I progress monitor my students every quarter. No grades have been assigned yet.

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

This was my first year. I am working on a system for next year to measure student "accountability."

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

ALEKS reinforces the skills taught in class, and it gives students a higher level of confidence when doing math in the core curriculum. Students were hesitant at first to try something new, but once they saw progress in their pie, their enthusiasm and increased confidence challenged them to proceed to topics that they might not have chosen at first.