

Implementation Strategies

Eastern Hancock High School, Eastern Hancock County Community School District
Charlottesville, IN

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 40%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1.5–2 hours per week, 30–37 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Pre–Algebra, Algebra 1, Integrated Mathematics I

Kathy Sexton, Teacher

I have been very pleased with my ALEKS experience. I love how it teaches the students at their level and continually reassesses to prove the retention of concepts. Until we receive Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress (ISTEP) and End-of-Course Assessment (ECA) results back, it will be hard to tell what learning progress has been made. In my own classroom, it is great to have students work ahead and challenge themselves more than they would with the regular curriculum. Students love seeing their progress.

Scenario

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

The biggest challenge was differentiating the curriculum to meet the needs of all the students. ALEKS does that for you.

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?

45 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

The students work on ALEKS two or three times per week while I do traditional classroom teaching on the other days.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

I only have access to computers two or three times a week, so the students just work on ALEKS during those entire class periods and we work on different concepts on the other days.

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

No.

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

As often as possible.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I send out an email to all the parents of the students who are using the program.

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, not this year.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

I give 20 points each day for completing at least 30 minutes a day and at least two topics a day.

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

Yes.

Learning Outcomes

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

Until we receive Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress (ISTEP) and End-of-Course Assessment (ECA) results back, it will be hard to tell. In my own classroom, it is great to have students work ahead and challenge themselves more than they would with the regular curriculum. Students love seeing their progress. As with any program, there are a few students that really haven't bought into it.