

Implementation Strategies

Larry A. Ryle High School, Boone County School District
Union, KY

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab, Home Access

Purpose: RtI, Enrichment/Gifted and Talented, Special Education, Improve State Test Scores

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2–4 hours per week, 185 hours per term

ALEKS Course: High School Preparation for Algebra 1, Algebra 1, Algebra 2

Jill Knapp, Instructional Coach

ALEKS has been an amazingly motivational tool in our pursuit of making annual yearly proficiency in math. Students who are at grade level, gifted, and in Response to Intervention (RtI) use ALEKS to provide coverage of skill gaps and to extend their knowledge. Since ALEKS is online, provides 24/7 help and access, and has individualized status reports, parents are delighted as well. Students who were behind two grade levels have not only caught up, but they often proceed to the next level of mathematics. The personal ALEKS Pie provides instant feedback and motivates our students to great gains! Our ALEKS Consultant, support, and trainer were excellent and responded immediately to our needs. Now, three other high schools in the district are jumping on the ALEKS journey to achievement!

Scenario

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

2–5 days per week.

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

45 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

ALEKS is used with credit recovery, remediation and enrichment, as well as for summer school.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, we allow ALEKS to direct students.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Two classes use ALEKS solely for their curriculum.

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

The teachers started using pre-assessments, intervening more, using diagnostic reports, and incorporating motivational student celebrations for completed tasks or topic mastery.

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

Daily.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We send home parent reports and celebratory certificates, and make phone calls to parents.

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?

Grades are broken down as: 20 percent for QualityCore End-of-Course Assessments, 60 percent for daily work, and 20 percent for assessments.

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

Progress varies from student to student, but we ask each student to progress by approximately three lessons or according to a student-teacher set goal.

Learning Outcomes

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

Students have shown an average 45 point gain on our Scantron tests and 16 percent on the PLAN Assessment. Additionally, almost all of our students have made benchmark gains on End-of-Course Assessments! When we surveyed the students, they revealed that they are motivated and excited by the chance to accomplish more and fill in gaps, and 96 percent of them have enjoyed ALEKS.

Best Practices

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

Do not forget to celebrate progress weekly! In addition, students become highly motivated by a short student-teacher conference.