

Implementation Strategies

Liber Community School, Private
Hayward, CA

Grade(s): 7 – 12

Scenario: One-to-One Laptop Program, Home Access

Purpose: Exit Exam, Improve State Test Scores, Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20–30%

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Middle School Math Course 2, Algebra 1, High School Geometry

Deborah Kingdon, Directress

ALEKS has been used off and on for three years at our school. It gives teachers a lot of good information on student progress. This year I am using it as a review for students. My students have filled holes in their math knowledge that they didn't realize they had. I have one student who hated math, and the first time ALEKS told her answer was correct, she became extremely motivated to work harder at math.

Scenario

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

Gaps in student knowledge.

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

3–4 days per week.

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

30–40 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I am using it to prepare students for the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) and as a review for those who have finished their course of study this year.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

I am primarily using ALEKS for those who have finished their course of study for this year.

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

Daily.

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?

Yes, all of it.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

Because we grade on mastery, we use the amount finished as the grade. For instance, 89 percent of their pie completed represents a B on that part of their grade. This grade is then averaged into test and other homework grades.

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

Because their grade depends on mastery, they are motivated to finish as much of their pie as possible.

Learning Outcomes

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

My students have filled holes in their math knowledge that they didn't realize they had. I have one student who hated math and the first time ALEKS told her answer was correct, she became extremely motivated to work harder at math.

Best Practices

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

I have found that ALEKS is best used in conjunction with a math program led by a teacher rather than as a complete program by itself.