

Implementation Strategies

Ivy Academia Charter School, Charter
Northridge, CA

Grade(s): 9 – 11

Scenario: Laptop Carts

Purpose: Intervention, At-Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 75%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 4.5 hours per week

ALEKS Course: Algebra 1, High School Geometry, Algebra 2

Lori Glazer, Teacher

ALEKS has been a great experience. All of my students have improved using the ALEKS program as part of our math lab. This course is for students who have difficulty in their math course and who have low test scores. Each day I learn something new about the program. I like that it is user-friendly and as a teacher, you can look at a lot of data pertaining to each student or the course. What I see so far with ALEKS, I love!

Scenario

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

3 days per week.

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

90 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

ALEKS is used for our math lab course. The students work on it each time they come to my class. We have laptops on a computer cart.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

The order varies according to the level that each student is at.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

My students come in each class period and they start working in ALEKS right away. Since this is a math lab, ALEKS is all students are required to do. I give them an assessment once a week. We are on a block schedule, so students only work in ALEKS three times a week.

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

I didn't need to modify my teaching for how we are using it in our school.

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

I encourage students to work in ALEKS as much as they can. My students who are behind are encouraged to work on it more than the others.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I send emails to my parents encouraging them to have their students work in ALEKS at home.

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, ALEKS is only done in class.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

Seventy percent of the grade is ALEKS, while 30 percent is participation points in class.

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

I require my students to complete between 3–5 concepts in each class period. Some are able to do more than this.

Learning Outcomes

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

My students have all made progress in learning concepts that they were lacking or weak in. They are excited to look at their pie chart each day and see the concepts that they have mastered.

Best Practices

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

I would include rewarding participation points to students just for working in the program each day, in addition to the progress and improvement they make. It will motivate students to work in the program and will get them to enjoy it more.