

Implementation Strategies

Delphi Community High School, Delphi Community Schools
Delphi, IN

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: One-to-One Laptop Program, Laptop Carts

Purpose: Core Curriculum

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 100%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2.3–3.5 hours per week, 33.3 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Pre-Algebra, High School Preparation for Algebra 1, Algebra 1, High School Geometry, Algebra 2, Trigonometry, PreCalculus

Michael Atwood, Teacher

Thus far, I really like ALEKS. But most importantly, the students seem to like it. Students that did not have a lot of success with math can actually see themselves getting better. We are going to use ALEKS next year for Algebra 1 and possible for Algebra 2. We have only been using it for nine weeks and I see real improvement.

Scenario

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

We were faced with low exit exam scores and were determined to improve our scores. Thus, we gave ALEKS a go, and the students seem to be responding to it.

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?

70–75 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Our principal had me go see ALEKS at a neighboring school and asked if I would work with it the last nine weeks. I said sure and now really like it. I have the students at the end of each day turn in the work they have done on paper. I also have them write a synopsis on how the day went and what they thought of the program.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

Next year we will. Since we started at the end of the year, it has been more self-paced. Next year we will work on a given unit each week, and if the students complete the task, then they may work on their pie chart.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students first took the Initial Assessment, and then I allowed them to work in their pie. I told them we would have short tests and quizzes often. Sometimes they will also get a worksheet. Since we began ALEKS in the last nine-week grading period, it has really been self-directed. Next year when we begin the semester with ALEKS, we will have a weekly homework quiz, and then have tests at intervals over the material we cover. If a student misses a day, he or she will automatically get a worksheet just to keep up.

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

Now I am answering students' questions from all over the board, instead of just one piece of the puzzle. The students are working at their own pace and seem to be enjoying it.

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

Right now they have to find the time to catch up if they are absent. This is usually done at home or during their student resource time.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I have put on our website that we are using ALEKS. The students should show their parents what they are doing.

Grading

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

These nine weeks will be different than a class that has ALEKS for the entire time. It will be broken down as follows: 25 percent is time in ALEKS; 25 percent is improvement between the first and last assessment; 25 percent is homework and quizzes (multiple tries); and 25 percent is quizzes and tests (one time).

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

We are striving for improvement every day this year.

Learning Outcomes

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

Even some of the lesser motivated kids are seeing the positive learning outcomes in their pie charts. Out of 77 students, 74 showed improvement in their pie chart after the first assessment. It seems that students are doing well.