

Implementation Strategies

Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical High School, Springfield Public Schools
Springfield, MA

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab, Computers in Classroom, Home Access

Purpose: Special Education, At-Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 3 hours per week, 12 hours per term

ALEKS Course: High School Preparation for Algebra 1

Janet Settembro, Instructional Leader Specialist

I am the coordinator of the program at the school. I thought the program would give the students a chance to re-learn the skills that they were unsure of, and it did do this for them. The students enjoy using ALEKS. I have heard only good comments about the program.

Scenario

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

A good percentage of our students are doing math at the seventh grade level although they are in ninth or tenth grade.

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

2 days per week.

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

43 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

At Putnam, the ninth and tenth grade classes have 15–43 minute periods. We ask the teachers to have the students go on ALEKS about 2–3 periods a week.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

The students spend 43 minutes, twice a week on ALEKS. The rest of the time is spent learning their course content.

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

Instead of doing math problems on paper and pencil, the students practice the concepts using the computer.

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

The teachers encourage the students to use the program at home, at the local library, or even on their smart phone.

Grading

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

I look at the progress and send out reminders to teachers to make plans to use ALEKS.

Learning Outcomes

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

I have seen a lot of students enjoy doing math and feeling powerful that they can do it. The progress looks good. The students are learning the concepts and doing well.

Best Practices

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

Next year, we have a Math Lab set up for the ninth and tenth grade students. This will be two 43-minute periods every day of the week, every other week. During this time, the students will be using ALEKS as part of the block.