

Implementation Strategies

St. Paul's School for Girls, Private
Timonium, MD

Grade(s): 5 – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab, Laptop Carts, Home Access

Purpose: Summer School

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 10%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 15 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Pre-Algebra, High School Preparation for Algebra 1, Algebra 1, Algebra 2

Jeanne Day, Intervention and Gifted Teacher

ALEKS has served us well as a summer review required by all of our middle school students. Students can easily access it online, and we can clearly track what they have worked on and how much success they are having. Our students really like it and now look forward to doing their summer work.

Scenario

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

Students would lose their summer packets or lose all the work they had done before they get ready to hand it in.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We have parents and students sign up themselves. We give them the class code and the instructions of what topics to complete for their summer review.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

We require a specific number of topics to be finished over the summer.

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

We now spend much less time reviewing at the start of the school year.

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

As often as it takes to complete the required topics.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

With ALEKS, we have much better parent support for the summer review. Parents pay for ALEKS and they help their students sign in to it. Since parents can now actually see what their students are working on, they are more interested and helpful in ensuring that ALEKS is being used consistently. We ask them to encourage their students to work on it on a regular basis. If we see that a student has not been working, we email both the student and the parents to remind them to work consistently.

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?

It is counted as a quiz at the beginning of the school year. The exact percentage is different for each teacher.

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

Yes, the progress required varies by class.

Learning Outcomes

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

The students definitely return in the fall remembering more of what they learned the year before. They enjoy doing the work, as working on the computer appeals to them much more than paper and pencil. They have said that it really helps them to keep their skills sharp over the summer.