

Implementation Strategies

Crossroads Alternative School, Moriarty–Edgewood School District
Moriarty, NM

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computers in Classroom

Purpose: Core Curriculum, Improve State Test Scores

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 100%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 5 hours per week, 37 hours per term

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

Evelyn Vinogradov, Math Teacher

ALEKS is an excellent math program for usage in credit acceleration and recovery in an alternative school setting.

Scenario

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

We struggled with various levels of knowledge, gaps in concepts, attendance issues, and difficulty individualizing to meet needs.

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

5 days per week.

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

50 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

As students enter the alternative school, they are enrolled in ALEKS according to their credit needs.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students work individually on ALEKS for the class period.

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

We have transitioned from 100 percent textbook classes over to ALEKS.

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

My students are encouraged to work at home every night.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Interviews and meetings with parents help to describe the program, and I encourage them to watch their students work 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?

100 percent.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

ALEKS provides 100 percent of the math grade, and is broken down into a minimum of 25 hours online per quarter and a minimum of five topics per hour.

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

We monitor progress with assessments and quarter exams and final exams.

Learning Outcomes

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

I have seen excellent progress and outcomes from our students using ALEKS. They rarely regress on assessments and have produced appropriate grade level scores on the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA). They are encouraged when they hit "the perfect world" on assessments. (i.e. their last assessment plus progress matches newest assessment). At least 50 percent of our students are functioning at the appropriate level.