

Implementation Strategies

NEW College Preparatory Academy, Private
League City, TX

Grade(s): 7 – 12

Scenario: Online School, Home Access

Purpose: Core Curriculum

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 100%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 10 hours per week

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Middle School Math Course 2, Pre–Algebra, Algebra 1, High School Geometry, Algebra 2, PreCalculus

Robin Stowe, Mentor

Our school uses ALEKS as a primary math learning device for our students. I have found that my students who begin ALEKS at the sixth or seventh grade level progress through their math courses at a great speed. One of my students completed six ALEKS courses in less than 12 months. Another of my students who was severely behind in math was able to complete two ALEKS courses in less than a year and start on his third course.

Scenario

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

The challenge was not having anything we could provide to students who were at the levels below Pre–Algebra.

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?

120 minutes.

Implementation

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

We use the directed learning available through ALEKS.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

My students work online from home. They are asked to work two hours per day, starting with a review of their notes. They then review previous topics, then do QuickTables (if assigned), and finally, work on as many topics as they can accomplish in the remaining time. We use this directed learning for all of our courses.

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

Our students are self–taught.

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

Students perform all of their work from home, so they are asked to work on ALEKS two hours per day.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Parents are only asked to make sure their student is working two hours per day. If we find students have issues with time, we send the parents the Time and Topic Report.

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?

All coursework is done at home.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

When students complete a course, they are given an A.

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

Students work at their own pace.

Learning Outcomes

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

Students who start ALEKS at the sixth or seventh grade level would not trade ALEKS for any other math curriculum. In the long run, all students proceed at a faster pace since they are able to pick up all of the idiosyncrasies they missed in their earlier education.

Best Practices

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

I highly recommend placing students in ALEKS at the level they truly need. Going below grade level is better than starting too high. If you find students are not progressing adequately each week, start them over at the next level down.