

Implementation Strategies

The Community School, Spokane Public Schools
Spokane, WA

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: One-to-One Laptop Program, Computers in Classroom, Home Access

Purpose: Improve State Test Scores, Core Curriculum

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 100%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 5 hours per week, 45 hours per term

ALEKS Course: High School Preparation for Algebra 1, Algebra 1

Susan Poindexter, Resource Teacher

With ALEKS, my students are able to work at their own pace without the embarrassment of feeling like they are lagging behind the other students. I also like the fact that ALEKS lessons can be completed anywhere. Sometimes my students are absent due to illness, but they are still able to complete their ALEKS lessons at home.

Scenario

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

The students were not engaged during traditional classroom instruction.

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?

60 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Our math department has used ALEKS as a supplement to our required curriculum with great success.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students work on ALEKS for 30 minutes when school begins and for 30 minutes after lunch.

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

I work with students individually.

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

They are encouraged to work on ALEKS at home for at least one hour per day.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Parents are provided with an explanation of the ALEKS program during student-led conferences and are encouraged to be involved with their student's learning.

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?

Yes, ALEKS is 50 percent of their homework.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

Students are graded on how many topics they learn.

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

Students are responsible for learning a specific number of topics based on their individual learning ability.

Learning Outcomes

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

Students are finally experiencing success in math and are improving their standardized test scores by 1–2 years' growth. They also like the instant feedback that they receive while doing their ALEKS lessons.

Best Practices

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

Encourage your students to print out the explanations for problems that they don't understand and place them in a binder to refer back to at a later date.