

Implementation Strategies

Irving High School, Irving Independent School District
Irving, TX

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: One-to-One Laptop Program

Purpose: College and Career Readiness, Special Education, Core Curriculum

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 30%–40%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 4–9 hours per week, 30 hours per term

ALEKS Course: MS Rtl Tier 3, Pre–Algebra

Danita Wilkerson, Special Education Teacher

ALEKS has been an awesome tool. I've seen students make jumps in learning. Before ALEKS, they described learning math as feeling like they were jumping off a cliff. Using this program makes them feel as if the ground is coming up to meet them, and learning math is not the giant leap it once seemed. Math is no longer scary for students; they have confidence in their ability to learn the subject.

Scenario

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

Resource students were not making much progress in learning math concepts prior to ALEKS.

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?

20 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I have implemented ALEKS into my classroom as a tutor to build a firm foundation of math concepts, while also using it as scaffolding to bring students up to grade level curriculum.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

Yes, I cover whole numbers, fractions, decimals, signed numbers, equations, and geometry (in that order).

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

They warm up for five minutes, spend 20 minutes on a Scope lesson, and then spend 20 minutes with ALEKS.

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

I started this position with ALEKS, so I always incorporated it into my lessons.

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

Daily.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Parent conferences are great for ALEKS reports: the Time and Topic and ALEKS Pie reports both allow parents to easily see student progress and effort.

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?

Students are required to complete 70 minutes a week. If they miss a class, it is the students' responsibility to get the time made up as homework.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

ALEKS time is 20 percent of their grade. Completing ALEKS lessons is 80 percent of their grade.

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

Yes, their weekly ALEKS grade is based on their progress in lessons. Less than three lessons is a 50 percent; 4–5 lessons is a 70 percent; 6–8 lessons is an 80 percent; 9–10 lessons is an 85 percent; 11–13 lessons is a 90 percent; and finally, 14 or more lessons is a 100 percent.

Learning Outcomes

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

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