

Implementation Strategies

St. Elizabeth Academy, Private
St. Louis, MO

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab, Home Access

Purpose: Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2.5 hours per week, 22 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Foundations of High School Math, Algebra 1, Algebra 2

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Scenario

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

Our students come from a variety of feeder schools and, as a result, they are all over the map in terms of math knowledge and skills when they arrive.

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

3 days per week.

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

15 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We started with freshmen during our summer bridge program. We had some difficulty with schedules and computer access once the school year started, so some classes used it more than others in the first weeks.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

We follow the order of the textbook. Each teacher decides how to incorporate ALEKS into their classes at this point.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students work on individually determined concepts during school sessions.

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

I had to begin dealing with the challenge of scheduling computer lab time.

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

We require a minimum of 30 minutes per week, preferably 3 sessions of 10 or more minutes.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We send email reminders out to the parents as well as discuss ALEKS at parent/teacher conferences. We are also currently considering a demonstration at our next PTA meeting.

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?

ALEKS homework consists of a minimum of 30 minutes per week.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

Currently, it is a pass/fail system based upon cooperation.

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

Not yet, but many of these issues are being brought to the table for next year.

Learning Outcomes

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

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Best Practices

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

Get parents involved!