

Implementation Strategies

Edge High School, Charter
Tucson, AZ

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computers in Classroom, Laptop Carts, Home Access

Purpose: Summer School, Improve State Test Scores, Core Curriculum

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 50%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 4.5 hours per week, 37 hours per term

ALEKS Course: High School Preparation for Algebra 1, Algebra 1, High School Geometry, Algebra 2, Algebra 2 with Trigonometry, Integrated Mathematics I, Trigonometry, PreCalculus

Jackie Valdez, Teacher

I am very pleased with the ALEKS program. I like that it requires the students to master the topics during practice and during the assessment in order to move on. I have also taken 75 percent of the ALEKS courses in order to brush up on my math knowledge, as well as to see what types of questions and curriculum the students are being exposed to. The new features added to the teacher side of ALEKS are helpful in tracking progress and communicating with students. I have also been pleased with the results I have seen. Students seem to retain the information more since they practice it until mastery. Students get really excited when they do really well on an assessment or pre-assessment of a new course! I also see that the curriculum aligns well with our state standards and Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS).

Scenario

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

Our school has a lot of fifth year seniors or students who haven't learned much math at all, so getting them motivated and engaged in their learning was a struggle. ALEKS has allowed students to take their learning into their own hands and master it at their pace.

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?

55 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

When students enroll, they can choose either the textbook course or the ALEKS course. Therefore, it is the math curriculum for some students.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students work independently on their ALEKS and receive one-on-one assistance as needed.

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

I give students more freedom to do topics they want in the order they want.

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

It is encouraged every day!

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

During parent-teacher conferences, I give them a tour of their son/daughter's ALEKS account, and show them how to check progress or offer help. Parents enjoy being able to see their child's progress any day.

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?

If they meet daily classroom topic/percentage goals, then ALEKS is not assigned as homework.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

They receive a grade based on the percentage that they reach in the course. For example, 87 percent mastery would be equivalent to an 87 percent or B. They are required to get 85 percent in order to move on but can continue past that for a higher grade if they would like.

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

They are required to do 3–4 topics daily and an assessment every 1.5 weeks. They are also required to complete a full ALEKS course (85 percent or more) within 12–16 weeks of starting it.

Learning Outcomes

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

I have been pleased with the results I have seen. Students seem to retain the information more since they practice it until mastery. Students get really excited when they do really well on an assessment or pre-assessment of a new course! I also see that the curriculum aligns well with our state standards and Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS).

Best Practices

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

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