

Implementation Strategies

Longmeadow High School, Longmeadow Public Schools
Longmeadow, MA

Grade(s): 9 – 12
Scenario: Computer Lab
Purpose: At-Risk Students
ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%
Time Spent in ALEKS: 2–3 hours per week

Pauline Jacek, Teacher

I have been very pleased with my experience with ALEKS. I really enjoy the fact that students are reassessed every so often to see how much material they are retaining, and how their pies are set up according to these assessments. Students can track their own growth and watch their pie slices grow as they learn the material. They find it inspiring to master a topic and see the piece of the pie fill in. In addition, it is good to have diversity in their choosing of what they want to work on for a given day.

Scenario

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

These at-risk students have trouble retaining material and need to see the material repeated.

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

4 days per week.

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

10 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I have decreased the number of topics covered, so that I can incorporate time to go to the lab to work on ALEKS.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, I let students choose where they would like to go in their pies.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

I usually go over homework, teach a new lesson, and then give a daily quiz. After students take the daily quiz, they spend the rest of the block working on ALEKS.

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

I make sure I can fit in the teaching of new lessons, then go over homework, and leave enough time for students to work on ALEKS in the computer lab.

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

Not at all.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I have not because it hasn't been an easy thing to do.

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?

No.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

It is not part of the grading for the class.

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

I have a very small class of only four students, so it is easy to keep an eye on each of them.

Learning Outcomes

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

I have seen my students constantly reviewing topics instead of just working on something and then letting it go. Practicing on ALEKS is very beneficial when thinking about taking our Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test next year. I also think students feel that ALEKS has helped them with their learning because it is aligned with the state's curriculum. They will be taking a high-stakes MCAS test next year and this program helps to prepare them for that test.