

Implementation Strategies

Canton South High School, Canton Local School District
Canton, OH

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab, One-to-One Laptop Program

Purpose: Intervention, Improve State Test Scores

Time Spent in ALEKS: 3.35 hours per week, 30 hours per term

ALEKS Course: High School Preparation for Algebra 1

Anthony Martin, Paraprofessional

Overall, ALEKS is a great tool to help students improve. I have seen multiple students improve from only having 15–20 percent of knowledge for a class to having 65–70 percent of the information after only three months with a full month between their last lesson and the comprehensive assessment. I really believe that ALEKS is a wonderful program that helps students to improve in any area of math because it helps them to learn things multiple times if they need it. One thing I notice is that ALEKS is best used as an everyday thing and not just as a once and awhile thing. It really helps the students learn the material so that even after a little layoff, the students still remember it.

Scenario

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

We had many students not pass the state standardized test. This caused them to search for programs to help them out, and they decided on ALEKS. We will see in about two weeks the results of using ALEKS as an intervention for these students. I feel that it has really helped them.

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?

41 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

It is implemented for the entire class period as an intervention for the state standardized test.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, I allow students to progress at their own pace.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

My class periods are solely used for the ALEKS program as an intervention to help improve state standardized test scores.

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

I didn't have to modify, as it is used as the sole intervention with my acting as the facilitator of the program.

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

They are encouraged to work at home when they miss a class in order to catch up.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I do not try to cultivate that involvement as it is used as an intervention and is not part of any grade.

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?

I do not assign grades for students.

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

Yes, they need to complete a certain amount of time in the program with minimum progress to achieve "success" in the intervention.

Learning Outcomes

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

I see students becoming more independent with their work and showing increased confidence in their math ability. Students that put in effort show significant progress and improvement with their basic math skills. The students really like how they can see their day-to-day improvements with the pie and from assessment to assessment with the progress bars. The students feel proud when their progress bars improve more than what ALEKS says they have learned. For example, a student had 50 percent mastered and 11 percent learned since the last assessment for a total of 61 percent, but then when they did their assessment, it showed they had mastered 64 percent.

Best Practices

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

I feel that implementing ALEKS is best served as an everyday thing and not just as a once and awhile thing.