

Implementation Strategies

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Private
Minneapolis, MN

Grade(s): 9 – 10

Scenario: Computers in Classroom, Home Access

Purpose: Intervention

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 10%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1–1.5 hours per week, 6–10 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Pre–Algebra, Algebra 1, High School Geometry

Don Beach, Algebra Teacher

We have had a very positive reaction from the students, parents, and faculty.

Scenario

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

Many of our students were between 3–5 years behind in their math skills.

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?

15–20 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We introduced ALEKS, performed all assessments, and now use the program to either begin or end our class period.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

We cover topics as ALEKS assigns them.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

ALEKS is used during either the first or last 10–15 minutes of class.

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

With ALEKS, I am able to use the textbook less in class, as well as less chalkboard and instruction time.

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

Those who have access are urged to use the program at home.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We have yet to take this step.

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?

We are not allowed to assign any homework.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

25 percent.

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

We monitor the students' progress bar, and require 15–25 percent completed progress.

Learning Outcomes

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

Although I have only been using ALEKS for a brief period of time, the feedback has been positive.

Best Practices

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

The more I went over the navigation of the pages, the better the kids worked on their assignments.