

Implementation Strategies

Learning Alternatives Community School – The Lighthouse Program, Spring Lake Park Schools
Spring Lake Park, MN

Grade(s): 2 – 12

Scenario: One-to-One Laptop Program

Purpose: Core Curriculum

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 99%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 4–8 hours per week

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Pre–Algebra, Algebra 1

Kristin Ammerman, Teacher/Facilitator

I have been using ALEKS in my multi-age classroom for about four weeks.

Scenario

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

We previously used an online math program that was less helpful with regard to reports for teachers, and it lacked virtual tools for the students.

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

4–7 days per week.

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

Varies.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We first used the initial assessment to place our students.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students select a portion of large work block time in which to do ALEKS.

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

We have always used online math programs, so I have not had to modify much.

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

Students are expected to complete at least 4.5 hours of math each week, by combining school and home time.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We have encouraged parents to log in with student at home and look at progress, view their pie, and see how it all works.

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?

100 percent.

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

Since we are new to this, we don't have a good sense of progress. So we are asking for time spent and it is monitored several times a week via teacher reports.

Learning Outcomes

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

Our students can now pace themselves and are not hindered by boredom and waiting. Some are even flying through the courses and are highly motivated. Others have set personal goals of completion, something they would not be able to do in traditional setting.

Best Practices

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

We celebrate based on pie piece progress. The visual and individual recognition seems to motivate students.