

Implementation Strategies

St. Xavier Catholic School, Catholic Diocese of Salina
Junction City, KS

Grade(s): K – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab, Home Access

Purpose: Supplement

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2–3 hours per week, 20 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables)

Lori Balderrama, Principal

Having used other online math programs, I find ALEKS to be much more comprehensive. However, we are still learning how to access components that would assist teachers in instruction, such as access to completed assessments.

Scenario

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

We have some students that don't possess basic math skills, and therefore are unable to progress.

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

2–3 days per week.

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

N/A

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Students are selected on local and state assessments, along with teacher input. We have a lab facilitator, with the math teachers monitoring and intervening as needed.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, students progress based upon their needs.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students alternate using the computer. On offline days, students work on the concepts with paper and pencil.

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

We do not modify our approach, as this is a stand-alone program.

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

It is required during our summer program. During the school year, students work during school hours.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We have used other programs and shared our new enthusiasm for ALEKS with our parents. We find parents are receptive to their children receiving additional instruction.

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, as the students have a regular math class from which they receive homework.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

At present, it is non-graded.

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

Yes. The lab facilitator and regular math teacher monitor progress.

Best Practices

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

Students still require some intervention when faced with difficult concepts. We use ALEKS as a supplement to our standard curriculum.