

Implementation Strategies

McLain High School, Jefferson County Public Schools
Lakewood, CO

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab, Laptop Carts

Purpose: Intervention

Time Spent in ALEKS: 5 hours per week, 35–45 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Middle School Math Course 2, Middle School Math Course 3, Pre–Algebra, Foundations of High School Math, Algebra 1, High School Geometry

LeNora Weaver, Teacher

I use ALEKS in two ways. The first way is as a maintenance supplement of previous skills learned. The second is as a preparation curriculum for the student's next level of math. Students are doing a better job at maintaining skills needed for their other math classes since using ALEKS, and they really like how easy it is to see their own progress.

Scenario

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

We are an option school and many students come to us well below the expected skill level.

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?

50 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I implemented ALEKS as an independent study program to maintain and raise skill levels.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students work independently on skills specified by the teacher.

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

I haven't modified my regular teaching approach.

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

Everyday, as we are an online school.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Parents are taught how the program works and how students will be graded, so they may monitor if they want.

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?

Approximately 50 percent.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

Students are graded on ALEKS as an independent study program separate from their math class grade.

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

Yes, I measure hours per week and number of skills mastered.

Learning Outcomes

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

Students are doing a better job at maintaining skills needed for their other math classes since using ALEKS, and they really like how easy it is to see their own progress.

Best Practices

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

Specifying skills to be worked on has helped.