

Implementation Strategies

Pine Creek High School, Academy School District 20
Colorado Springs, CO

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab, Home Access

Purpose: Intervention

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: Varies

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1.5–3 hours per week, 22–45 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Foundations of High School Math, Algebra 1

Sandra Sparrow, Math Teacher

I have been pleased with ALEKS. I have recommended the program to students who need that extra push to get caught up and renew their confidence in their own abilities.

Scenario

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

We are still facing complacency among the students and just an attitude of giving up. ALEKS has helped this, but we have many more students that still have this attitude.

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?

15–60 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

As a school, we are supplementing some students' math classes with additional ALEKS material as to fill gaps in their knowledge.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

In the past I have spent the first two-thirds of the class on the computer doing ALEKS, pulling out groups of students who needed the same topic taught when necessary.

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

I look at the topics that most of the students are weak in and try to do extra lessons on those topics.

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

I encourage homework in ALEKS as much as possible.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I send emails and letters home to parents.

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 grade by time spent in ALEKS and lessons learned. For class, we have a chart that the students fill in about what they learned and

what they still have questions on.

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

We set goals but these can be adjustable depending on the student and the lessons being attempted.

Learning Outcomes

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

We are using ALEKS with our lowest math students and have seen some of the gaps being filled in. They do tend to score better on the standardized tests compared to before, and the students who apply them have a new confidence in their math abilities.

Best Practices

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

The charts are good for them to see what progress they are making, along with a graph that tracks how many lessons they have learned.