

Implementation Strategies

Canyon Springs High School, Moreno Valley Unified School District
Moreno Valley, CA

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computers in Classroom

Purpose: Intervention, Exit Exam

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 50%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2.5 hours per week, 45 hours per term

Diana Richie, Teacher, Math Department Co–Chair

I am finding ALEKS to be very helpful. I can only cover so many topics in class, and ALEKS finds a student's weaknesses and helps students work on them.

Scenario

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

The students in our California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) Math Prep classes are all over the board in ability. Before we used ALEKS, we would have trouble teaching concepts to all the students.

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?

25 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I use a group rotation where half of the students are on the computers at any given time.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, I let students work on topics in ALEKS that they have shown weakness in.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

I use a group rotation. I teach a small group while the other half of the class is on the computer.

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

Using a group rotation method was new to me.

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

I encourage students to spend half a day at home on ALEKS.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I inform parents at back-to-school nights and through emails.

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?

I do not require them to use ALEKS at home.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

Progress made in ALEKS is 25 percent of their grade, and 20 percent is their grades on ALEKS worksheets that I print out once a week.

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

The students are told that they must learn 50 new objectives in a semester. I convert their percentage of growth to a number and use that in their grade.

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

We have seen a decrease from seven intervention sections offered to four this year. The students also like the program very much.

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

Making ALEKS a large part of their grade has really helped focus the students.