

Implementation Strategies

Visions In Education Charter School, San Juan Unified School District
Carmichael, CA

Grade(s): K – 12

Scenario: One-to-One Laptop Program, Computers in Classroom

Purpose: Core Curriculum

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 100%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 3.5 hours per week, 72 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, High School Geometry

Jen Russell, Teacher

My students really enjoy using ALEKS. I have seen many gains with my students overall, and that makes me happy!

Scenario

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

We are an independent study high school, which in and of itself has its challenges. Our math program is not as dense as I have had in a traditional school.

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?

We are piloting the program right now.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, the students are able to decide what they want to work on.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

The school is an independent study program, so we do not have class periods.

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

When a student needs help in the particular strand, then we work on that.

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

50 minutes per day.

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?

100 percent.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

My ALEKS grading policy is as follows: participation accounts for 40 percent of a student's grade. Participation is putting time into ALEKS, where 3.5 hours equals an "A" and so forth, and also showing progress in Assessment Performance Goal (located in "Report" under "History") and sufficient progress towards mastery of the course standards. Worksheets account for 30 percent of a student's grade with one per week and two being completed onsite a student's teacher. Assessments account for the remaining 30 percent of their grade with one per learning period, scheduled during the last week of the term. We are still working on this template.

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

Yes, but that is left up to the teacher to decide if they are making significant progress.

Learning Outcomes

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

One of my students is blazing a trail. Another absolutely loves using the computer to learn math. The students feel great and I show them on a regular basis how they are progressing.