

Implementation Strategies

Tolleson Union High School, Tolleson Union High School District
Tolleson, AZ

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Intervention

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 50%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 3.5 hours per week

ALEKS Course: Algebra 1, High School Geometry

Jeff Carter, Math Department Chair

I have worked with ALEKS for three years.

Scenario

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

Our students had poor basic math skills.

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?

55 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We implement ALEKS by creating a class structure of one hour of ALEKS, and one hour of instruction.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

Yes.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

All of our students work independently.

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

I did not modify my teaching style.

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

I encourage them often.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We send letters home to the parents explaining ALEKS.

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?

Effort is worth 10 percent, notebook of work is worth 10 percent, and progress is worth 80 percent.

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

Yes, we use a progress bar.

Learning Outcomes

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

I have witnessed much better grades in Algebra 1.

Best Practices

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

Have a strong classroom management person in the lab.