

Implementation Strategies

Brecksville Broadview Heights School District, Brecksville Broadview Heights School District
Broadview Heights, OH

Grade(s): 9 – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab, Laptop Carts

Purpose: Intervention

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 3 hours per week, 30 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Algebra 1

Dayna Bickel, Teacher

Our ALEKS experience has been very positive. This is our first year using the program, and when I compare the students' abilities to the past, it is remarkable. My students have a deeper understanding and a greater level of confidence in their math ability. I love the program and have already shared it with my colleagues. My students also love ALEKS. Also, ALEKS Customer Support is helpful and easy to work with.

Scenario

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

We use ALEKS in association with a new Algebra block course in order to prepare our students for their high school career.

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?

40 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I use ALEKS as an individualized learning program, as well as a way to have students practice new concepts being discussed in the course.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

I use ALEKS along with my textbook, and try to cover topics accordingly.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Three days per week, we split the class into two sections with 10–12 students per section. One section focuses on ALEKS, and is aided by a special education teacher, while the other section focuses on new material. All students then use ALEKS to practice the material they learn in class, as well as to make progress on their pie.

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

I am fortunate to have my students for 80 minutes a day. Therefore, I use small group instruction so that the students can have time to complete assignments on ALEKS, and gain a better understanding of the material altogether.

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

I require three hours of independent ALEKS use per week. In order to motivate my students to spend more time in ALEKS, I set up competitions for most time logged and highest quiz average.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I email and call parents to tell them about ALEKS. I also have a website to post assignments with a direct link to the ALEKS website.

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?

ALEKS is only a part of the homework for the course. Students are required to complete three hours each week. Whatever material they do not complete in class must be finished on their own time.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

ALEKS accounts for 20 percent of my students' grade. This 20 percent includes time on ALEKS and quiz grades. I send a quiz to them each week that they may take an unlimited number of times until they reach 100 percent.

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

I focus on quiz results and pie progress to determine whether students are exhibiting an acceptable amount of progress. I feel that the quizzes are wonderful and the ability to monitor individual growth is great.

Learning Outcomes

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

Our ALEKS experience has been very positive. This is our first year using the program, and when I compare the students' abilities to the past, it is remarkable. My students have a deeper understanding and a greater level of confidence in their math ability. ALEKS plays a big role in these changes. My students are very happy and excited about the program.