

Implementation Strategies

Plumas Charter School, Plumas Unified School District
Quincy, CA

Grade(s): K – 12

Scenario: Computer Lab, Home Access

Purpose: Intervention, Core Curriculum, At-Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 4–5 hours per week; 75 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Essential Mathematics (with QuickTables), QuickTables, Pre-Algebra

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It is easy to see students progress quickly in ALEKS. Even students who hate math seem to like it.

Scenario

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

We are a non-classroom based charter school, so if students were not good at math it was a struggle getting them to complete the work at home. Even tutoring them 2–3 times per week was not enough to make progress.

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?

45–60 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Students are trained by the teacher before being sent off to work independently.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

There is no specific order.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students come in and work for 45–60 minutes on their own in the computer lab or work from home.

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

I monitor student progress online and help them if they have questions.

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

Every day.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Parents monitor efficiency of use when students are working from home.

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?

Yes. ALEKS is one of four core classes that students work on each day.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

ALEKS is 100 percent of the grade with periodic pencil and paper quizzes.

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

No. Students work at their own pace, but must do 45–60 minutes per day.

Learning Outcomes

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

Students definitely progress as indicated by the completion of their pie in a steady manner throughout the year. Even students who hate math end up feeling successful.