

Implementation Strategies

St. Paul's School for Girls, Private
Brooklandville, MD

Grade(s): 5 – 12

Scenario: Home Access

Purpose: Summer School

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: Varies

Time Spent in ALEKS: 8 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Middle School Math Course 2, Middle School Math Course 3, Pre–Algebra, Algebra 1, High School Geometry, Algebra 2, PreCalculus

Dawn Adams, Math Department Chair

We have been utilizing ALEKS for summer math review work. In the past, we used workbooks to have the students practice their skills. However, ALEKS has allowed students to work on material at their present level of understanding, practice with feedback, and allow teachers to gain important formative information. ALEKS has helped our students become more confident with their basic skills review. Some students have shown remarkable improvement, and most report that they love ALEKS much better than the workbooks used in the past.

Scenario

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

How to make summer review work beneficial to students.

How many days per week is class time dedicated to ALEKS?

Varies.

What is the average length of a class period when ALEKS is used?

Varies.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We use ALEKS for summer math review. We use the topics in ALEKS to compare when working on curriculum review.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

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

Teachers have information on students before starting the school year. This helps structure what review work a class needs.

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

Eight hours total over the summer.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We send a letter home to parents to encourage them to review the student's pie chart with them at the beginning, middle, and end of the summer.

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?

Teachers give a grade (usually quiz grade) based on the number of hours completed out of the eight total hours required in the

summer.

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

Not yet, but we are considering this.

Learning Outcomes

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

ALEKS has helped our students become more confident with their basic skills review. Some students have shown remarkable improvement, but we have only been utilizing it during the summer (for now) to practice previously learned skills. Most students report that they love ALEKS much better than the workbooks used in the past.

Best Practices

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

ALEKS is a wonderful way to have formative assessment data.