

Implementation Strategies

Sierra Vista Middle School, Irvine Unified School District
Irvine, CA

Grade(s): 7 – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: RtI, Intervention, After–School, At–Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 35%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 3 hours per week, 20 hours per term

ALEKS Course: RtI 7

Kimberly Read, Teacher

My overall experience has been positive. My students make goals to fill in their pie and work toward them. They feel great and successful. Sometimes after a new assessment they lose some of their pie and are disappointed, but overall, they feel proud of their progress. Students seem to remember and refresh their foundational skills.

Scenario

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

Low test scores and students with a poor mathematical foundation.

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

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 it with my math lab students and my afterschool academic advantage students.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

I allow students to first work on a review for the current lesson, and then have them work individually on ALEKS in the computer lab.

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

I am now focusing more on the basic skills than the current lesson.

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

It is always encouraged, but never required.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I let parents know about the resource and will walk them through it if they're interested.

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?

I do not incorporate ALEKS performance into my grading other than as a participation or no participation score. As long as they are working, they get credit.

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

Yes, they must complete at least a minimum number of lessons each time we go to the lab.

Learning Outcomes

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

They feel great and successful. Sometimes after a new assessment they lose some of their pie and are disappointed, but overall, they feel proud of their progress. Students seem to remember and refresh their foundational skills.

Best Practices

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

Use it often, encourage it at home, and use it for the duration of the year. Allow students to choose their lessons, so they have fun with it! I even let my kids listen to appropriate music during the lessons.