

Implementation Strategies

Tolland Middle School, Tolland Public Schools
Tolland, CT

Grade(s): 6 – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Intervention, Improve State Test Scores

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 12.5%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1.5 hours per week, 32.35 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Middle School Math Course 2, Middle School Math Course 3

Nancy Rosenzweig, Computer Technology Coordinator

I like the fact that students work in an individualized manner. Most of my students have made EXCELLENT progress. I like the reports that I can generate.

Scenario

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

Many of the students I see are weak in basic math skills. I try to help build their skills so that when they take the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), their scores will be stronger. I believe that is what we will see since many of my students reported seeing the type of work they had done on the tests.

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?

43 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I teach a remediation class. Students have been assigned to my class based on their performance on last year's CMTs and classroom teacher recommendation.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

We all start in Whole Numbers. Then I have the students move to Fractions, then Decimals, then Geometry.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students come in, login to ALEKS, and work on the topics in their pies. Sometimes I will give them a timed facts–based math test. They work independently and I circulate the room, giving assistance as needed. I will generally schedule an assessment once a month (but some students will take them more often to assess retention of information learned).

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

I encourage students to work in ALEKS each time I see them, and have the links to ALEKS and JAVA on my teacher web page for them to access.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I send home a progress report from ALEKS. It shows them what the student has covered as well as my interpretation of the student's effort level and what needs improvement.

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?

I request that students work in ALEKS, but since I don't see them every day and not all students have Internet access, I don't enforce it.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

I don't.

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

Since many of the students have some degree of Special Education issues, they are asked to do their best and are individually assessed.

Learning Outcomes

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

Most of my students have made excellent progress; a lot of which depends on their motivation and skill levels. I see students gaining confidence as they see the number of topics mastered grow.