

Implementation Strategies

Ivy Bound Academy Math, Science Technology Charter Middle School, Los Angeles Unified School District
Sherman Oaks, CA

Grade(s): 5 – 8

Scenario: Laptop Carts, Home Access

Purpose: Intervention, Improve State Test Scores, At-Risk Students, Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 10%–15%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 5 hours per week, 80–100 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables)

Jessica Kiang, Teacher

ALEKS is a great tool to help students brush up on their skills, independently. The explanations for the problems are clear. I love that ALEKS will independently assess the students after a certain amount of progress and readjust their paces according to their needs.

Scenario

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

Some of the students in my class have gaps in their math knowledge. From my observations, factoring and multiplying two and three digits, and division with two and three digits are some of the bigger challenges.

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 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

ALEKS is used to fill in the gaps for each student so that they are able to keep up in math class.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

Yes, all students are assessed in the course one level below their current grade level and they work from there.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

They work on ALEKS all period.

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

They are required to do it every day. When they complete a course, they receive an award.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

During Back to School Night, each parent participates in a ten minute session about ALEKS.

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 assigned as part of their homework but the standard is five hours per week.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

In my class, grading is done only if they complete and start on their grade level in ALEKS.

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

Progress is subjective to each student's abilities.

Learning Outcomes

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

I have seen students progress enough to catch up to their current grade level in math. They are very excited each day when their pie grows larger.

Best Practices

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

ALEKS is a great program, and works effectively when I minimize my contact with the students. I have them read the explanations to themselves, and if they are still unsure, then I have them read it aloud to me. Usually, by the time they read it to me they understand what to do. This has helped them grow more independent.