

Implementation Strategies

Lakeland Montessori Middle School, Polk County Public Schools
Lakeland, FL

Grade(s): 6 – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab, One-to-One Laptop Program, Home Access

Purpose: Enrichment/Gifted and Talented, Improve State Test Scores, At-Risk Students, Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1–2 hours per week

ALEKS Course: Middle School Math Course 2, Middle School Math Course 3, Algebra Readiness, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, High School Geometry

Kelly De La Cruz, Teacher

I very much enjoy using ALEKS. It is wonderful to be able to refer students to lessons on the program, differentiate instruction to add a challenge for gifted students, and remediate with struggling students. My favorite part though, is the information it gives me to inform my teaching. It helps me see which students need specific lessons. It is a great tool for communicating progress and present levels of performance to parents. My students are required to master six new tasks a week, rather than a set amount of time. They are also required to finish their course by the end of the year, with a grade given for their percentage of course completion.

Scenario

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

We had a hard time identifying each student's strengths and weaknesses.

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?

I assign topics to master each week and expect completion by end of year.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students are assigned ALEKS for both guided practice and independent practice.

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

I have not.

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

Weekly, students are required to master six topics or more.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I share ALEKS reports and progress with them.

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, about an hour per week.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

About 20 percent of the students' grade.

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

Yes, six topics per week.

Learning Outcomes

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

Students are proud of their learning and have increased their overall math skills, motivation, and confidence in math.