

Implementation Strategies

Vanston Middle School, Mesquite Independent School District
Mesquite, TX

Grade(s): 7 – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab, Computers in Classroom

Purpose: Summer School

Time Spent in ALEKS: Several hours per week

ALEKS Course: Middle School Math Course 2

Lewis Elam, Seventh Grade Mathematics Teacher

Using ALEKS has been a very positive experience. I have seen students grow more interested in learning math.

Scenario

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

Getting vendor approval.

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

2+ days per week.

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

N/A

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We did a summer pilot program to see if it was appropriate for our type of students.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, we allow each student to work on ALEKS independently to complete their pie slices.

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

I frequently encourage my students to work with ALEKS at home.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I make personal phone calls and send parents letters with updates 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?

I have a special group of students who will use ALEKS as a substitute for math.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

I am using ALEKS as a substitute homework grade which counts from 20–33 percent of the grading period based on progress performance as reported in ALEKS Report System.

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

I am still working on developing an algorithm to properly measure progress.

Learning Outcomes

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

During the summer pilot program, I saw how a student with severe conduct disorder was able to re-channel his energies into a positive ALEKS activity and outpace all the other students.

Best Practices

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

I would make it a point to just encourage students to give working with ALEKS a sincere and honest effort.