

Implementation Strategies

Hardyston Middle School, Hardyston School District
Hamburg, NJ

Grade(s): 6 – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Supplement

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1.3 hours per week, 8 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Algebra 2

Rose Wolverton, Teacher

It has been amazing! We use it one day every week with my entire eighth grade class and the results on state testing were fantastic! Of our 78 students, we had five tests with perfect scores and three more received 299 out of 300. Only five students did not achieve proficiency, which was an improvement over the same students' previous year assessment. When the same 11 students tested partially proficient, they had extra ALEKS time during basic skills one period per week.

Scenario

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

We lacked the ability to address individual needs, which ALEKS allows us to explore.

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

3–4 days per week.

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

45 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We began about six years ago using ALEKS for our basic skills program. After two years, we put the entire eighth grade on, and last year we put the entire middle school on the program.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, we let the students roam around their pies, and answer questions as they go.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students work independently for the 80 minutes and raise their hands when they need additional help on a concept.

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

Some of the concepts we come to in the textbook have already been covered in ALEKS, so we can jump right to the worksheets without much teaching.

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

My students are required to work with ALEKS every night.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We notify the parents on back-to-school night and at conferences in November.

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 only part of their homework, but is offered as extra credit.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

It varies. Extra points are added to their final grade, pending their improvement on comprehensive assessments over the marking period.

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

Their progress isn't as much of a requirement, as a reward.

Learning Outcomes

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

Our results have spoken for themselves, so much so, that our Board of Education is willing to maintain this expenditure, while they drastically cut other parts of the schools' budget. The kids love the program and race to improve and fill their pies!

Best Practices

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

Let the students explore and try all sections of their pie. Students, who have said they hate geometry, usually end up working there first because they find that they love to do constructions!