

Implementation Strategies

Alice Fong Yu Alternative Elementary School, San Francisco Unified School District
San Francisco, CA

Grade(s): K – 8

Scenario: Computers in Classroom, Home Access

Purpose: Intervention, At-Risk Students, Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 10%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2 hours per week, 20 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Algebra Readiness

Pauline Ly, Teacher

I like the easy access and user-friendly interface of ALEKS. The explanations for the problems are very thorough and easy to follow. My students have fun using the program. I like that students can choose a concept to work on; they feel they are in control. Monitoring the students' progress is very easy, and the presentation of data is awesome.

Scenario

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

Some students' foundations were weak.

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

1 day per week.

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

50 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Every Friday, the students stay for an hour after school to use ALEKS. They also need to log in for another hour at home during the weekend.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

We have six students working on ALEKS and another six students working with a teacher reviewing concepts or getting help in homework; then, we switch.

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

With ALEKS being used on Fridays after school, I am able to do one-on-one instruction with the students.

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

Students use ALEKS at home 1–2 hours per week.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I use it in parent conferences.

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 part of the students' homework. It involves logging in for two or more hours each week.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

Using ALEKS results in a ten percent increase to a student's grade. For example, if the student's current grade is 70 percent, her grade will go up to a "B" because of the ten percent increase from ALEKS.

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

Yes. We require students put in the hours, and we look at what concepts they have mastered.

Learning Outcomes

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

Most of my students have really enjoyed ALEKS. They keep going back to their pie chart to see improvement, which is motivation for them to do better. Out of 12 students, one student has improved from a "D" grade to a "C+" grade; two have improved from a "C-" to a "B-"; five have improved from a "D-" to "D+"; and the rest have stayed the same. The students who have stayed the same have not put in the hours at home.