

Implementation Strategies

Riverfield Country Day School – Upper School, Private
Tulsa, OK

Grade(s): K – 12

Scenario: Computers in Classroom, One-to-One Laptop Program

Purpose: Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 10%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1.3 hours per week, 23.4 hours per term

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

Kay Hilton, Teacher

My seventh grade class, a Pre-Algebra class, and Geometry classes use ALEKS as a supplement to our traditional textbook.

Scenario

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

The biggest challenge was finding a way to address the very different math backgrounds and ability levels, even in the same class.

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?

40 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Each student has one ALEKS period a week in addition to their regular math class. I allow one period a week in class time for ALEKS.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

ALEKS is organized to follow our textbook and is covered in the order the teacher chooses.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Since ALEKS is coordinated with our textbook, students simply log in and do their work.

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

I haven't really modified my approach at all. When students ask for help, my first question is did you click on "Explain" If they did and they still don't understand, then I try to clarify the problem.

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

At least an hour a week is recommended.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Parents were given an introduction to ALEKS at the beginning of school on parent night.

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 counts for 10 percent of their overall grade.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

We decided that progress of 10 topics per week was to be our goal. We take a grade every week by checking progress. 10 or more is 100 percent.

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

Progress of 10 topics a week is their weekly goal regardless of where they are. Some topics take less time than others and, for example, if they advance 15 topics one week and only five the next, we adjust their grade accordingly, allowing for the topics that take a little more time. We set intermediate goals according to the timing of our units in class.

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

I have witnessed students who struggled with math improve on their skills enough to make success a real possibility. Most students follow their pie chart closely and seem to take great pride in the progress they make.