

Implementation Strategies

Sequoia Middle School, Redding School District
Redding, CA

Grade(s): 4 – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: At-Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 100%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 4 hours per week, 50 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Pre-Algebra

Holly Bredemann, Tutor

ALEKS has given my students the chance to get up to grade level in math. Most students like the program and enjoy seeing their progress. I have several students who began below grade level and are now performing above grade level in math. These students had previously been unsuccessful and lacked confidence in their math abilities. Now, they feel more capable of doing the math they encounter.

Scenario

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

The biggest challenge has been motivating students to stay on task.

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

5 days per week.

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

50 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Students take an assessment to place them at the correct level. They then work independently on ALEKS each day, asking for help as needed.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students spend 5–10 minutes doing QuickTables and then work independently on ALEKS for the rest of the period.

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

Students are able to work at their level. My regular teaching approach has not applied because students get one-on-one help versus whole class instruction.

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

Often.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We have not done this yet.

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?

No.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

Students' grades are determined based on their time on task and topics completed each day.

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

No.

Learning Outcomes

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

I have seen all of my students get to grade level or above in math. Most students like the program and enjoy seeing their progress.

Best Practices

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

When implementing the program, students need clear instructions of expectations. Each student should be provided with a personal notebook to take notes and be required to take notes for each topic they do not understand.