

Implementation Strategies

Hoopeston Area Middle School, Hoopeston Area Community Unit School District #11
Hoopeston, IL

Grade(s): 7 – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab, Computers in Classroom

Purpose: RtI, Intervention, At-Risk Students, Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 10%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2 hours per week, 18–20 hours per term

Diana Judy, Teacher

I have been involved in ALEKS for two years now. Once I began to use ALEKS hands-on, I saw how easy it was to use. I started as a Teacher's Aide using ALEKS; I took the time to learn the ins and outs of the program and its benefit to the students. I have seen success, even in those students who just didn't care. In the beginning, it took some coaxing to get students interested in doing the program. In the end, I had several students ask to continue the program at home. One student told me, "Mrs. Judy, I feel so much more confident in math class that I don't go home anymore and cry because I don't get it." ALEKS helps students fill in the learning gaps and feel more confident with their work! Several students who were failing math were able to bring their grades up by at least one letter grade in the quarter. Now as a teacher, I see the importance of this program.

Scenario

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

Many students had major gaps in their learning so they struggled to catch up.

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

4 days per week.

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

30 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

It is mainly used now as an intervention.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, it is by interest of the students.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

They are taken out of study labs to work on this program.

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

They are encouraged to use ALEKS at home as replacement to earn some of their lab time back.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We encourage them to help monitor their students.

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?

Not as a homework assignment, but as an intervention.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

We are currently not using it in our grading system.

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

We have the students attempt at least two different subdivisions of the pie chart daily.

Learning Outcomes

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

The students feel more confident with their work. Several students who were failing math were able to bring their grades up by at least one letter grade in the quarter.

Best Practices

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

Make sure the students don't press the back button on their browser when they see an answer. If they do, they can easily put the answer in and get the question correct.