

Implementation Strategies

Nebraska City Middle School, Nebraska City Public Schools
Nebraska City, NE

Grade(s): 6 – 8

Scenario: Laptop Carts

Purpose: At-Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2 hours per week, 40 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Pre-Algebra

Brian Johnson, Teacher

My overall experience with ALEKS has been a good one. I love how students are able to work on the skills they want to work on and progress at their own pace. The teacher interface is easy to use and shows a lot of data for me to track my students. I don't have specific data yet, but I know the students have mentioned a few times that they have already worked on an item during ALEKS time and remember how to work that concept. They like to talk about their achievements, and mention how many items they have mastered and compare it with others.

Scenario

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

We were looking for something to help at-risk students build up their math knowledge for state testing.

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

3 days per week.

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

40 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We don't implement it into our curriculum; it is in addition to our normal class.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

We have an extra class period for ALEKS students. ALEKS is in addition to their normal math class.

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

I did not modify my teaching approach. I let the students go at their own pace in ALEKS.

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

This year we did not encourage it, but it might be something we'll do later.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We don't, but this is something we could do.

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?

We do not.

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

No, but this is one item we are for sure going to implement next year.

Learning Outcomes

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

I don't have specific data yet, but I know the students have mentioned a few times that they have already worked on an item during ALEKS time and remember how to work that concept. They like to talk about their achievements, and mention how many items they have mastered and compare it with others.

Best Practices

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

Having the kids log in before they come to class is best for management.