

Implementation Strategies

M. R. Null Middle School, Sheldon Independent School District
Houston, TX

Grade(s): 6 – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab, Laptop Carts

Purpose: Intervention, After-School, Summer School, ESL Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 4 hours per week

ALEKS Course: Middle School Math Course 2, Middle School Math Course 3

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Students are excited and motivated about learning as they see improvement and progress through their pie chart. The results are reflected in classroom performance and assessments.

Scenario

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

Our challenges were students understanding vocabulary and using all steps to answer questions.

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?

Students are allowed to use the laptops as time allows.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, students are self-guided.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Our intervention schedule is twice a week for 45 minutes and afterschool tutorials twice a week for one hour. Some time is given during class as needed.

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

Since our students are English as a Second Language (ESL) students, teachers help with vocabulary and clarification of questions.

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

Enough to complete three hours per week.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Parent orientation meetings are held, and both parents and students sign participation contracts.

Grading

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

No grades are given, but recognition and rewards are given for participation.

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

We monitor progress every two weeks.

Learning Outcomes

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

Students who have made the commitment of time and effort have shown great improvement in not only math skills but content vocabulary. The visual of the pie chart encourages them to continue working and improving.

Best Practices

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

Set a routine time for students to have access to ALEKS during the school day.