

Implementation Strategies

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Catholic Diocese of Memphis
Germantown, TN

Grade(s): K – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab, One-to-One Laptop Program, Home Access

Purpose: Enrichment/Gifted and Talented, After-School, Summer School, At-Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20–30%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2 hours per week

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Essential Mathematics (with QuickTables), Arithmetic (with QuickTables), Rtl 6, Rtl 7, Rtl 8, MS Rtl Tier 3, Middle School Math Course 2, Middle School Math Course 3, Algebra Readiness, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1A, Traditional Algebra 1A, California Algebra 1A, Algebra 1B, Traditional Algebra 1B, California Algebra 1B, Algebra 1, California Algebra 1, Traditional Algebra 1, High School Geometry, Algebra 2, Integrated Mathematics I

Rhiannon Harrison, Teacher

We have had a great experience with ALEKS at our school. We are able to pinpoint what each student knows in math, build upon this knowledge, and expand learning – all at the individual student level.

Scenario

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

2–3 days per week.

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

60 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Using ALEKS, we assess and set goals for each student. Students are required to spend a certain amount of time in the program and learn a specified number of topics during that time. Additionally, students have work due each week and are sometimes given assessments, worksheets, and quizzes.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

The order which we teach our regular lessons.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students have a regular math class, with dedicated time set aside once a week for time in the computer lab. Sometimes, students who are above or below grade level work on ALEKS during class lessons. Students have a set amount of topics due each week, as well as during school breaks.

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

Our regular instruction stayed the same. We added ALEKS as a supplement to reinforce class instruction.

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

At least two hours per week. If students are on school break, we may assign time to spend in ALEKS, depending on the length of that break.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

We make ALEKS part of student grades.

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 is part of student homework, usually assigned for the weekend.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

Each teacher at our school weighs ALEKS a bit differently. I count ALEKS as a weekly quiz grade. Students earn two a week; one grade is evaluated based on the time and topics mastered in the lab during school, and the other is based on the two or more hours they are assigned in ALEKS over the weekend. If I have assigned quizzes in ALEKS, these grades are considered as well. ALEKS quiz grades are weighted as 30 percent of my overall math grade.

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

Yes. If I assign two hours in ALEKS and students complete it, they earn 120 out of 120 for that assignment. If students spend any less than that time, the number of minutes they did not work is subtracted accordingly. Additionally, students are required to complete a reasonable amount of topics unless they are specifically assigned a topic amount. If not, I deduct points for not reaching their goal.

Learning Outcomes

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

With ALEKS, student work ethic has improved, and students are learning more on their own and at their own pace. They are very proud of their accomplishments in ALEKS. Not a day goes by that a student does not comment on a topic they were introduced to through ALEKS.