

Implementation Strategies

Florence–Carlton Middle School, Florence–Carlton District 15–6
Florence, MT

Grade(s): 4 – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab, Laptop Carts, Home Access

Purpose: RtI, Enrichment/Gifted and Talented, After–School

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 50%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 3 hours per week, 27 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Middle School Math Course 2, Middle School Math Course 3, Pre–Algebra, Algebra 1, High School Geometry, Algebra 2 with Trigonometry

Lora Austin, Title I Teacher

I am currently using ALEKS as a Title I supplement for Grades 4–8. I have used ALEKS for the past seven years in Indiana and saw an increase in test scores in the schools where I was teaching. ALEKS has been a vital resource with data and questioning that prove student mastery. I have only been using ALEKS for three weeks here in Montana but at my past school, students improved test scores significantly. They were proud and excited to see their growth.

Scenario

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

There were low test scores, and it was difficult to meet the needs of the accelerated students as well as students who struggled in the classroom.

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?

45 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Florence–Carlton started a Middle School Title I program and we have students pulled from Academic Extension time four times a week to meet and work on ALEKS.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, I typically correlate to the district adopted textbook, but there is no necessity to do this.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students come into the class, get their computer, and log in. Students are graded on effort, progress, and time per week.

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

I have used ALEKS as a stand-alone program using the quizzes and homework as well as the progress on ALEKS. I have also used ALEKS two times a week in the regular classroom with book work on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and ALEKS on Tuesday and Thursday. I like both.

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

If possible, students try to work an hour per week at home. I require two hours per week for their grade.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I send brochures, have parent phone calls, and send the ALEKS reports home to be signed.

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?

Last year, using ALEKS in the regular classroom, I used 25 percent Homework, 25 percent Test, 25 percent ALEKS time (two hours per week or 18 hours every nine weeks), and 25 percent Progress (I created a rubric and would tell students what percentage they would need for an A).

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

I use a rubric to measure progress.

Learning Outcomes

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

I have only been using ALEKS for three weeks here in Montana but at my past school, students improved test scores significantly. They were proud and excited to see their growth.

Best Practices

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

Excite and let students enjoy their time on ALEKS. I let them listen to their iPods because I found they focus well, if not better, and it makes ALEKS time a treat.