

Implementation Strategies

Sierra Middle School, Lincoln Unified School District
Stockton, CA

Grade(s): 7 – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab, Computers in Classroom

Purpose: Intervention

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1.17 hours per week, 105 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Middle School Math Course 2, Middle School Math Course 3, Foundations of High School Math, Algebra 1

Karen Wensel, Teacher

Overall I am a big fan of ALEKS. I like how it doesn't overdo the practice and reassesses students regularly.

Scenario

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

A wide range of skills in any given group makes it hard to meet the needs of individual students. We are also a Program Improvement school.

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

2 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 use ALEKS for students who require an additional math class.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

Yes.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

We use ALEKS for the entire period, twice per week.

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

I incorporated a reward system to keep students motivated and on task.

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

I encourage students regularly to stay after school to work on ALEKS, since most do not have Internet access at home.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I let parents know about the program and some do encourage their students to work at home.

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?

I have introduced a point system in order to allow the students to gain extra points during the week.

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

I expect 5–10 points to be added to the student total each week and students can earn up to 50 points.

Learning Outcomes

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

My students have improved on their state test scores. They also feel great about using ALEKS.

Best Practices

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

I have found that a positive reinforcement program is necessary with students that haven't been successful in math.