

Implementation Strategies

Mount Union Area High School, Mount Union Area School District
Mount Union, PA

Grade(s): 7 – 12

Scenario: Computers in Classroom, Laptop Carts

Purpose: Supplement

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 50%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1–3 hours per week, 9–23 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Algebra 1, High School Geometry, PreCalculus

Suzi Bender, Math Department Head

I LOVE ALEKS! I have recently starting using ALEKS in my classroom, and I have seen such growth in my students' math skills in a short amount of time. ALEKS allows me to easily individualize instruction for my students so that they experience success EVERY DAY!

Scenario

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

Our average and below-average students have very low self-motivation.

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

2–4 days per week.

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

35 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I currently use ALEKS as a supplement to our curriculum.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

Initially, we do not. However, once the students fill in some of their pie, I concentrate on topics that are aligned with what we are doing in our planned course.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Initially, I give students unstructured time to fill in as much of their ALEKS Pie as possible. I also use the data from the Teacher Module reports to provide instruction to small groups. For example, if 13 of 17 students in the class are ready for a specific topic, I will prepare a mini-lesson on that topic, present it, and have the students practice via a pass/fail ALEKS homework quiz. Once they pass the practice quiz, they proceed to their Pie and complete the problems associated with that topic.

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

I never require students to use ALEKS at home but always encourage it.

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 not used for homework.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

ALEKS is worth approximately 40 percent of the final grade.

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

I do not require regular amounts of progress, but sometimes I give bonuses for certain percentage increases in a class period.

Learning Outcomes

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

With ALEKS, I have seen substantial growth in independent learning! Students are pleased with their progress. They like the flexibility of choosing the topics they will work on.