

Implementation Strategies

Brownsburg West Middle School, Brownsburg Community School Corporation
Brownsburg, IN

Grade(s): 6 – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab, Computers in Classroom

Purpose: Intervention

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 10%

Time Spent in ALEKS: Less than one hour per week, 10 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Middle School Math Course 2, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1

Chasten Bear, Math Interventionist

My students' knowledge of mathematics is growing as a result of ALEKS. I am also growing as a teacher with ALEKS; I can more effectively diagnose the strengths and weaknesses of my students, as well as learn how to address them at their individual levels. ALEKS is great for differentiating instruction.

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?

10–15 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

Students work on ALEKS in rotations. I teach content to a small group, while other students work on the program; they switch halfway through the period.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

Yes, I set up due dates for particular topics as I teach them in class.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students work on ALEKS in rotations. I teach content to a small group, while other students work on the program; they switch halfway through the period.

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

Students are always encouraged to work on ALEKS at home, but they are not required to.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I contact parents about ALEKS and discuss the program's capabilities. I also show them how their children can log into ALEKS at home, and they agree that it's a nice tool for their children to use 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?

Each quarter, I enter mastery of ALEKS topics as a test grade. That test grade is roughly 10 percent of the overall grade for the quarter.

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

Yes. I measure student progress by the number of topics that they master in their ALEKS Pie charts.

Learning Outcomes

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

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Best Practices

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

Be consistent, and use a rotation model when possible.