

Implementation Strategies

Parcells Middle School, Grosse Pointe Public School District
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI

Grade(s): 6 – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Intervention, Supplement, At-Risk Students

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 20–30%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 1.5–2.5 hours per week, 13.5–20.5 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Foundations of High School Math

Theresa Comilla, Teacher

I utilize ALEKS with my students in Math Foundations. This is an additional class for students, in addition to their general math class. Two to three times a week, I work in the lab with students on the program. I enjoy using ALEKS to help students work on math concepts at their own level, provide them the opportunity to see their growth, and create assessments and quizzes to go along with the math curriculum in the classroom.

Scenario

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

Finding an intervention resource for students who struggle in mathematics.

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?

45 minutes

Implementation

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No. At times I connect ALEKS to the pacing guide for my class. Overall, I use it as an intervention tool to help students work at their own level to master grade-level skills.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students are assigned a certain task in ALEKS, which include: working on a certain pie piece, free choice of a learning topic, or taking a practice quiz or test generated to coincide with the textbook as review. This time also allows me to work with students on a one-on-one basis.

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

I enjoy printing the worksheets for the individual students every couple of weeks; it shows me what they have been working on in ALEKS. After I check them with the students, I have a better understanding of what gaps they have.

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

Although students are given the option to complete ALEKS at home, very few take advantage of this option or have computers at home to utilize the program.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Parents are informed about the ALEKS program at our Back-to-School night. At conferences, I also share student progress with parents.

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?

As a participation piece.

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

Yes, I keep an eye on their weekly accomplishments and set new goals for the students.

Learning Outcomes

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

With the ability to link ALEKS topics to the classroom curriculum, I use ALEKS as a targeted review for the students. The students tend to do better on their tests or quizzes because of the additional ALEKS review, as well as the paper/pencil review they receive in class. Some days, I have students try to earn a certain number of pie pieces, which is motivating for some students. Students are happy when they learn and complete a task in ALEKS.