

Implementation Strategies

Taylor Street Middle School, Griffin–Spalding County School System
Griffin, GA

Grade(s): 6 – 8

Scenario: Computer Lab

Purpose: Core Curriculum

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 95%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2.5 hours per week, 45 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Middle School Math Course 2, Middle School Math Course 3

Lamar White, Teacher

ALEKS is a good program. I like the way the problems are presented. Students understand problems using the virtual experience better than any lecture.

Scenario

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

We only had traditional teaching methods of lecture and worksheets. ALEKS added a new dimension to the students' work.

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

2.5 days per week.

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

50–60 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

With the help of a federal grant, my class is essentially all ALEKS.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, but I am considering it next year.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students log in at beginning of class and they must master six topics before they can log off.

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

I went from a 100 percent focus on lecture and worksheets to a 100 percent focus on ALEKS.

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

Not required; very few students have home-based Internet.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

Currently, I do not involve 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?

ALEKS comprises 100 percent of a student's grade.

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

Yes; students must master six topics per class period.

Learning Outcomes

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

Students understand problems using the virtual experience better than any lecture.

Best Practices

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

Limit ALEKS time to 30 minutes per day to maintain student focus. Also set a topics mastered goal for students to reach each day and enforce it.