

# Implementation Strategies

**Lt. Clayre P. Sullivan Elementary School, Holyoke School District**  
Holyoke, MA

**Grade(s):** K – 8

**Scenario:** Computer Lab, Laptop Carts

**Purpose:** Intervention, Enrichment/Gifted and Talented, Special Education, At-Risk Students

**ALEKS Portion of Curriculum:** 20%

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** 1.5 hours per week, 11 hours per term

**ALEKS Course:** Middle School Math Course 2

**Laura Scutt-Drohan, Teacher**

Our experience has been very positive. When the students work on ALEKS, their math knowledge increases. They are pumped about their progress.

## Scenario

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

Low-income, and varied math knowledge.

**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?**

50 minutes.

## Implementation

**How do you implement ALEKS?**

Slowly. I started two years ago with one class, and then increased to all classes. I have added a grading rubric this year.

**Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?**

No.

**How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?**

I spend two 50 minute blocks during a 90 minute class on ALEKS.

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

I rely on ALEKS to reach the students who are excelling. I take a student-centered approach.

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

As often as it takes to master eight topics.

**How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?**

We hold an evening tutorial.

## 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?**

Yes, students are required to master eight topics in a week. If that is not done within the confines of 100 minutes, they need to do it at home or during office hours (afterschool help with me).

**How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?**

Mastering eight topics is worth eight percent. Documenting the amount of time, the number of topics worked on, and if they had difficulty is worth seven percent.

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

Yes, it is measured by the topics mastered in a week.

## **Learning Outcomes**

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

When the students work on ALEKS, their math knowledge increases. They are pumped about their progress.

## **Best Practices**

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

Be patient, and start slowly.