

# Implementation Strategies

**Hillcrest Seventh–Day Adventist Elementary School, Private**  
Saint Louis, MO

**Grade(s):** 5 – 8

**Scenario:** Computers in Classroom

**Purpose:** Core Curriculum

**ALEKS Portion of Curriculum:** 85%

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** 4–5 hours per week, 55 hours per term

**ALEKS Course:** Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Rtl 7, Middle School Math Course 2

**Kenneth McHenry, Principal**

I put 4–5 students on ALEKS for about an hour each day. I love that students are working at their individual level. As the students work, I float between computers and teach five or six–minute mini–lessons. Students make very good progress using ALEKS.

## Scenario

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

Everyone was at a different level of mastery.

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

5 days per week.

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

60 minutes.

## Implementation

**How do you implement ALEKS?**

ALEKS is used as my core curriculum.

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

I encourage students to work on a variety of topics, keeping their pie slices (topic areas) as even as possible.

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

All the students use ALEKS for one hour in the morning.

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

I teach many individualized mini–lessons as needed.

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

Those with Internet at home use it often.

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

I share the results from the student's Initial Assessment and subsequent progress to graphically show progress with parents. For example, I share that "this student started at 53 percent mastery, and has worked up to 86 percent overall mastery in 27 hours of ALEKS time."

## 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.

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

No. Students move around their pie charts and progress at their pace. Some students are quicker than others.

## **Learning Outcomes**

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

Students who put in the time are able to increase their course mastery significantly. Students also love to see their pie slices grow as they master topics.

## **Best Practices**

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

I was quite impressed, and ALEKS has proven to do all it claims it can do.