

# Implementation Strategies

**Walnut Glen Academy for Excellence, Garland Independent School District**  
Garland, TX

**Grade(s):** K – 5

**Scenario:** Computer Lab, Home Access

**Purpose:** Enrichment/Gifted and Talented, Supplement

**ALEKS Portion of Curriculum:** 15%

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** 1+ hours per week, 35–40 hours per term

**ALEKS Course:** Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables)

**Kim Villarreal, Fifth Grade Teacher**

I have enjoyed the program. My students at school and my own children at home have benefited from this truly wonderful program. It has given children that are motivated and excited to learn a chance to excel. I have been impressed with the explain feature and the intelligence of the placement feature! At school, the students are learning many skills before they are seeing them in the classroom.

## Scenario

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

Many of our students have so much potential in the area of math. Even though we are an accelerated school, some students were still not working at their potential. ALEKS has helped in this area.

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

1 day per week.

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

N/A

## Implementation

**How do you implement ALEKS?**

We use the program during our computer block.

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

No.

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

Students are working at their own level and pace for 45 minutes each week.

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

I am not sure that my teaching style has changed, but we now spend more class time discussing concepts that the students have seen in ALEKS.

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

They are encouraged, but not required to work at home. Later this year, it will be required to work outside of class time.

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

We send notes home to encourage parents to have their child work 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?**

At this time, it is not used in grading.

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

Not yet.

**Learning Outcomes**

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

Many of my students have been able to prove their potential in math, and others are working even harder to improve and show progress. The students are extremely motivated and are so excited to see their pie slices fill up! The kids are also very interested in learning new concepts now.

**Best Practices**

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

Share your excitement and give rewards for progress. We pass out math "dog tags" for completing slices of their pie.