

# Implementation Strategies

York Community High School, Elmhurst Community Unit District 205  
Elmhurst, IL

**Grade(s):** 9 – 12

**Scenario:** Computers in Classroom

**Purpose:** Special Education, RtI

**ALEKS Portion of Curriculum:** 100%

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** 5 hours per week; 90 hours per term

**ALEKS Course:** MS RtI Tier 3

**Dina Higginbotham, Special Education Teacher**

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## Scenario

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

My students have varying disabilities that all impact their ability to succeed in regular mathematics.

**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?**

55 minutes.

## Implementation

**How do you implement ALEKS?**

ALEKS was given to me as the curriculum for the students to work through for the semester.

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

Yes. I open new skills as we increase in level. For example, in Lesson 5, I open decimals. In Lesson 6, they also have fractions. The skills progress as the levels progress.

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

The students work on ALEKS all period each day. I reset the default to meet 10 different levels. I have students take a pre-assessment, then work on the skills until they feel ready or they have close to 100 percent completed. I then send them a post-assessment. If they score 80 percent or above, I move them up to the next level with the added skills.

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

I am able to sit one-on-one with students as they work on new skills.

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

I mentioned it to students but do not require it.

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

I just give them information for the website.

## 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?**

It is all in class. It is not homework.

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

I give daily participation grades. I use the pre–assessment but weight the grade at 50 percent. I use the post–assessment grade and weight it 100 percent. If students do poorly on the post–assessment, they may work more and retake it when ready and I will change their grade.

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

Not yet. Some students that have an assessment that day will show less progress since there's less time to work on progress.

**Learning Outcomes**

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

I see great progress with my students. They are able to explain to me why they get a certain answer when they see it. This task has been very difficult for my students using a textbook. They LOVE that they can track their own progress. They actually continue to practice skills until they "get it" so that they are ready for an assessment.