

# Implementation Strategies

**Calvary Christian Academy, Private**  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

**Grade(s):** K – 12

**Scenario:** Computer Lab, Home Access

**Purpose:** Credit Recovery, College and Career Readiness, Improve State Test Scores, Core Curriculum

**ALEKS Portion of Curriculum:** 20%

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** 3 hours per week, 20–30 hours per term

**ALEKS Course:** PreCalculus

**Laura Beth Hendry, Teacher**

ALEKS has been a great experience for my students in PreCalculus this semester. My class was a pilot program for ALEKS at our school. My students were guinea pigs for our department, and we have been pleased with the outcome of our experiment. The students completed about half of their pies this semester, and I counted it as their homework grade for both quarters. I like the precision and consistency that the program demands, and it has also been a character building experience for the students. The reality that "a slow and steady pace wins the race" has been an approach that students have had to adjust to; there is no "cramming" with ALEKS. The pie pieces demand a steady chunk of time each week in order to meet deadlines and stay on-task.

## Scenario

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

Mastery of concepts, and lack of consistency and precision.

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

2 days per week.

## Implementation

**How do you implement ALEKS?**

As homework to reinforce the concepts taught in class. I also use the quizzes to help students review for current assessments.

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

I mostly follow the order of the textbook.

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

I only used ALEKS in three class periods. It is to be done at home.

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

Less written homework.

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

For 2–3 hours per week.

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

I sent letters and emails home informing parents of the program.

## 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, 80 percent.

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

The completion of the pie pieces make up my homework grade, which is 20 percent of the overall average.

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

Progress is measured by pie piece completion.

**Learning Outcomes**

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

Students are more confident in solving problems, and they experience greater retention. They even speak "math" to each other. Overall, some like ALEKS, and most agree that it has been good for them.