

# Implementation Strategies

**Wapello High School, Wapello Community School District**  
Wapello, IA

**Grade(s):** 9 – 12

**Scenario:** Computer Lab

**Purpose:** At-Risk Students

**ALEKS Portion of Curriculum:** 100%

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** 3.5 hours per week, 31.5 hours per term

**ALEKS Course:** Algebra 1

**Megan Brown, Teacher**

I use ALEKS with a mixture of students, many of whom are at-risk. I strictly use ALEKS with no supplementing. I have many students who take to the program and enjoy the online environment.

## Scenario

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

The class I use the program with has mainly at-risk students, many of whom were not very strong in their math skills. Many of them also had behavioral problems, so I was constantly dealing with arguments between the students and rarely had time to teach meaningful content.

**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?**

40 minutes.

## Implementation

**How do you implement ALEKS?**

I use ALEKS for one of my three Algebra 1 classes exclusively.

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

The students work through the content at their own pace.

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

Students come into the computer lab, sit down at their computers, and log in to the program. I wander around the class, help students, and check for understanding as I go.

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

Using ALEKS allowed me to take more of a helping role instead of standing in front of the class. The students were more active in learning the material.

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

I never require students to work at home, but encourage it when they miss a day of school or if they are not making enough progress.

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

I send a letter home at the beginning of the class for the parents to read, and I discuss ALEKS with parents at conferences.

## Grading

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

ALEKS is my only grade. I grade on progress in the program on a weekly basis. I take the student with the highest topics mastered and break it down into A-F from there. Students also receive grades for effort on a daily basis and a grade for any assessments I assign.

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

I do not set a weekly limit because many of my students would stop after reaching the goal. I like to see them master at least one topic a day if not more, so roughly five topics a week on the lower end.

**Learning Outcomes**

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

I have seen a few students take more interest in mathematics. I have not had a chance to compare test scores since beginning ALEKS, but I think some of the students learned to think through the problems individually instead of relying on someone else to do their work. Many students enjoy watching their progress. I have students who have made a lot more progress than they would have in a regular classroom.