

# Implementation Strategies

**Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical High School, Springfield Public Schools**  
Springfield, MA

**Grade(s):** 9 – 12

**Scenario:** Computer Lab, Computers in Classroom, Home Access

**Purpose:** Special Education, At-Risk Students

**ALEKS Portion of Curriculum:** 20%

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** 3 hours per week, 12 hours per term

**ALEKS Course:** MS Rtl Tier 3, High School Preparation for Algebra 1

## **Janet Settembro, Instructional Leader Specialist**

I am the coordinator of the program at the school. I thought the program would give the students a chance to re-learn the skills that they were unsure of, and it did do this for them. The students enjoy using ALEKS. I have heard only good comments about the program.

## **Scenario**

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

A good percentage of our students are doing math at the seventh grade level although they are in ninth or tenth grade.

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

2 days per week.

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

43 minutes.

## **Implementation**

### **How do you implement ALEKS?**

At Putnam, the ninth and tenth grade classes have 15–43 minute periods. We ask the teachers to have the students go on ALEKS about 2–3 periods a week.

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

The students spend 43 minutes, twice a week on ALEKS. The rest of the time is spent learning their course content.

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

Instead of doing math problems on paper and pencil, the students practice the concepts using the computer.

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

The teachers encourage the students to use the program at home, at the local library, or even on their smart phone.

## **Grading**

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

I look at the progress and send out reminders to teachers to make plans to use ALEKS.

## **Learning Outcomes**

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

I have seen a lot of students enjoy doing math and feeling powerful that they can do it. The progress looks good. The students are learning the concepts and doing well.

## Best Practices

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

Next year, we have a Math Lab set up for the ninth and tenth grade students. This will be two 43-minute periods every day of the week, every other week. During this time, the students will be using ALEKS as part of the block.