

# Implementation Strategies

**Valley High School, West Des Moines Community Schools**  
West Des Moines, IA

**Grade(s):** 10 – 12

**Scenario:** Computer Lab

**Purpose:** Intervention

**ALEKS Portion of Curriculum:** 100%

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** 2 hours per week, 18 hours per term

**ALEKS Course:** Middle School Math Course 2, Middle School Math Course 3, Algebra 1

**Ryan Cooley, Mathematics Teacher**

It's been very good for our English Language Learners (ELL) students. It allows us to find out what they know mathematically without a language barrier.

## Scenario

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

Communication with non-English speaking students.

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

4 days per week.

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

N/A

## Implementation

**How do you implement ALEKS?**

We recently took six of our non English speaking students and started them on ALEKS.

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

We attempt to follow an Algebra course.

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

ALEKS constitutes the entire class period.

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

After using ALEKS, I can provide more one-on-one assistance.

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

My students are not required to work at home, as none of them have Internet access.

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

I sent letters to each of their parents, and also had a translator call.

## 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?**

ALEKS exams are 40 percent, and their daily work counts for 30 percent of their grade.

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

I monitor progress one-on-one, and also gauge progress by the amount of time they spend in ALEKS.

## **Learning Outcomes**

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

My ELL students don't mind coming to class at all now that they know they can learn in their first language.

## **Best Practices**

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

I feel that finding a balance between patience and pushing the student to do more is important.