

# Implementation Strategies

**Columbia Middle School, Sunnyvale School District**  
Sunnyvale, CA

**Grade(s):** K – 8

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

**Purpose:** RtI, Special Education, Improve State Test Scores, Supplement

**ALEKS Portion of Curriculum:** 40%

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** 3 hours per week, 15 hours per term

**ALEKS Course:** High School Preparation for Algebra 1

## **Keely E. Berg, Teacher**

We have coined a new phrase at school, and it is "I Heart ALEKS!!" The math teacher using it and I joke that we want to make t-shirts that say this and wear them whenever the district office comes to visit! ALEKS has been a life saver for our intervention Pre-Algebra Readiness courses. We had a very weak core curriculum, and ALEKS has really delivered for us while we try to purchase a different core intervention text. ALEKS is also the backbone of our afterschool Response to Intervention (RtI) math class, which meets twice per week. Students have grown over 30 percent in less than six months, which is outstanding! Students track their progress on growth charts I created. They get VERY excited to chart their own growth!

## **Scenario**

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

There were too many gaps at too many levels to meet everyone's needs.

### **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?**

80 minutes.

## **Implementation**

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

ALEKS is the strongest component of our intervention Pre-Algebra curriculum!

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

No, it is the students' choice.

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

We have the whole class in the lab twice a week. It is also used as a small group rotation center within the classroom, and we encourage students to log on at home.

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

I do not have to try and re-teach so many basic skills since students are doing their QuickTables regularly!

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

They are encouraged to do 30 minutes a night.

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

I had all the parents who attended Open House log on with their student, so they could see the program for themselves!

## **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, 100 percent of their homework is printed from ALEKS.

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

ALEKS homework packets are worth 20 percent, and ALEKS QuickTables quizzes are worth 20 percent.

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

Students chart their growth on the "growth thermometers," but there are no consequences if growth is not shown.

**Learning Outcomes**

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

Our students have grown over 30 percent in less than six months, which is outstanding! Students track their progress on growth charts that I created. They get VERY excited to chart their own growth!