

# Implementation Strategies

**Sierra Vista Middle School, Irvine Unified School District**  
Irvine, CA

**Grade(s):** 7 – 8

**Scenario:** Computer Lab

**Purpose:** RtI, Intervention, After-School, At-Risk Students

**ALEKS Portion of Curriculum:** 35%

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

## **Kimberly Read, Teacher**

My overall experience has been positive. My students make goals to fill in their pie and work toward them. They feel great and successful. Sometimes after a new assessment they lose some of their pie and are disappointed, but overall, they feel proud of their progress. Students seem to remember and refresh their foundational skills.

## **Scenario**

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

Low test scores and students with a poor mathematical foundation.

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

3 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 it with my math lab students and my afterschool academic advantage students.

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

No.

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

I allow students to first work on a review for the current lesson, and then have them work individually on ALEKS in the computer lab.

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

I am now focusing more on the basic skills than the current lesson.

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

It is always encouraged, but never required.

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

I let parents know about the resource and will walk them through it if they're interested.

## **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?**

I do not incorporate ALEKS performance into my grading other than as a participation or no participation score. As long as they are working, they get credit.

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

Yes, they must complete at least a minimum number of lessons each time we go to the lab.

**Learning Outcomes**

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

They feel great and successful. Sometimes after a new assessment they lose some of their pie and are disappointed, but overall, they feel proud of their progress. Students seem to remember and refresh their foundational skills.

**Best Practices**

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

Use it often, encourage it at home, and use it for the duration of the year. Allow students to choose their lessons, so they have fun with it! I even let my kids listen to appropriate music during the lessons.