

# Implementation Strategies

**Tolland Middle School, Tolland Public Schools**  
Tolland, CT

**Grade(s):** 6 – 8

**Scenario:** Computer Lab

**Purpose:** Intervention, Improve State Test Scores

**ALEKS Portion of Curriculum:** 12.5%

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** 1.5 hours per week, 32.35 hours per term

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

**Nancy Rosenzweig, Computer Technology Coordinator**

I like the fact that students work in an individualized manner. Most of my students have made EXCELLENT progress. I like the reports that I can generate.

## Scenario

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

Many of the students I see are weak in basic math skills. I try to help build their skills so that when they take the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), their scores will be stronger. I believe that is what we will see since many of my students reported seeing the type of work they had done on the tests.

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

2–3 days per week.

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

43 minutes.

## Implementation

**How do you implement ALEKS?**

I teach a remediation class. Students have been assigned to my class based on their performance on last year's CMTs and classroom teacher recommendation.

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

We all start in Whole Numbers. Then I have the students move to Fractions, then Decimals, then Geometry.

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

Students come in, login to ALEKS, and work on the topics in their pies. Sometimes I will give them a timed facts–based math test. They work independently and I circulate the room, giving assistance as needed. I will generally schedule an assessment once a month (but some students will take them more often to assess retention of information learned).

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

I encourage students to work in ALEKS each time I see them, and have the links to ALEKS and JAVA on my teacher web page for them to access.

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

I send home a progress report from ALEKS. It shows them what the student has covered as well as my interpretation of the student's effort level and what needs improvement.

## 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?**

I request that students work in ALEKS, but since I don't see them every day and not all students have Internet access, I don't enforce it.

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

I don't.

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

Since many of the students have some degree of Special Education issues, they are asked to do their best and are individually assessed.

## **Learning Outcomes**

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

Most of my students have made excellent progress; a lot of which depends on their motivation and skill levels. I see students gaining confidence as they see the number of topics mastered grow.