

# Implementation Strategies

**Walker Butte K–8 School, Florence Unified School District**  
San Tan Valley, AZ

**Grade(s):** K – 8

**Scenario:** Computers in Classroom

**Purpose:** Rtl, At-Risk Students

**ALEKS Portion of Curriculum:** 50%

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** 500 hours per term

**ALEKS Course:** Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), MS Rtl Tier 3, Middle School Math Course 2

## **Stephen Semo, Teacher**

I have been in education for 34 years, and I believe ALEKS is the best available program to improve mathematics skills. Students have shown a great deal of growth on local and state assessments. I contribute most of this growth to the child's ability to take advantage of the program. Most students enjoy ALEKS and enjoy their success.

## **Scenario**

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

With large classes, we had a very hard time meeting students' individual needs. ALEKS meets their needs.

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

5 days per week.

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

20 minutes.

## **Implementation**

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

We have 12 computers. We set up the class using learning centers, and ALEKS is one of the stations.

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

No.

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

I use a learning center–based model; thus, students use ALEKS for half of the class period.

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

Less whole group instruction and more with small groups.

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

We encourage them to work on ALEKS every night for 30 minutes. I offer bonus points.

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

We offer an ALEKS Night where the students and parents can come to school and play with the program.

## **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?**

ALEKS is extra credit if they do it at home.

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

Approximately 50 percent of their math triage grade is ALEKS. A regular classroom would only count it as 30 percent or less.

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

We expect them to have a minimum of one percent growth each day. Extra growth is counted as extra credit.

**Learning Outcomes**

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

Students have shown a great deal of growth on local and state assessments. I contribute most of this growth to the child's ability to take advantage of the program. Most students enjoy ALEKS and enjoy their success.

**Best Practices**

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

When students complete a pie and are ready to go to the next level, they are rewarded with a miniature pie of their choice (apple, cherry, etc.). The kids love them.