

# Implementation Strategies

**John J. Young Middle School, School City of Mishawaka**  
Mishawaka, IN

**Grade(s):** 7 – 8

**Scenario:** Computer Lab

**Purpose:** Enrichment/Gifted and Talented

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** 1–2 hours per week, 8–12 hours per term

**ALEKS Course:** Algebra 1

**Ben Kase, Academic Enhancement Supervisor**

A select few of our advanced students work with the ALEKS program to further extend their knowledge in mathematics. They use ALEKS to go above and beyond their math curriculum, as well as refresh some of the older concepts. From what I have seen, ALEKS allows students to progress at their own pace, so no student moves too fast or too slow. We love this program!

## Scenario

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

The students in the class are currently enrolled in a variety of different math levels. We had difficulty challenging the more advanced students.

**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?**

40 minutes.

## Implementation

**How do you implement ALEKS?**

Students work on ALEKS in their Academic Enhancement class.

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

No.

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

The students work at their own pace. They spend the entire period working on ALEKS.

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

I have not.

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

Students are not required but are encouraged every day to work on ALEKS at home.

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

The students are encouraged to inform their parents of their progress in ALEKS.

## 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, it is not.

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

ALEKS is not incorporated into the grading system.

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

No, the students are self-motivated.

## **Learning Outcomes**

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

They love it. Some of the students choose to do the ALEKS program over playing games! I have seen students teaching themselves how to do a certain mathematical topic, developing not only their math knowledge but also their problem solving techniques.

## **Best Practices**

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

Have friendly competitions between the students! Make it a fun activity rather than a requirement!