

# Implementation Strategies

**Vanston Middle School, Mesquite Independent School District**  
Mesquite, TX

**Grade(s):** 7 – 8

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

**Purpose:** Summer School

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** Several hours per week

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

**Lewis Elam, Seventh Grade Mathematics Teacher**

Using ALEKS has been a very positive experience. I have seen students grow more interested in learning math.

## Scenario

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

Getting vendor approval.

**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?**

N/A

## Implementation

**How do you implement ALEKS?**

We did a summer pilot program to see if it was appropriate for our type of students.

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

No, we allow each student to work on ALEKS independently to complete their pie slices.

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

I frequently encourage my students to work with ALEKS at home.

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

I make personal phone calls and send parents letters with updates about 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?**

I have a special group of students who will use ALEKS as a substitute for math.

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

I am using ALEKS as a substitute homework grade which counts from 20–33 percent of the grading period based on progress performance as reported in ALEKS Report System.

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

I am still working on developing an algorithm to properly measure progress.

## **Learning Outcomes**

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

During the summer pilot program, I saw how a student with severe conduct disorder was able to re-channel his energies into a positive ALEKS activity and outpace all the other students.

## **Best Practices**

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

I would make it a point to just encourage students to give working with ALEKS a sincere and honest effort.