

# Implementation Strategies

**Prairieview–Ogden Junior High School, Prairieview–Ogden Community Consolidated School District #197**  
Thomasboro, IL

**Grade(s):** 7 – 8

**Scenario:** Computer Lab

**Purpose:** RtI, Enrichment/Gifted and Talented, Improve State Test Scores, Core Curriculum

**ALEKS Portion of Curriculum:** 50%

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** 2 hours per week

**ALEKS Course:** Pre–Algebra, Algebra 1, High School Geometry

## **Bryan Hartman, Teacher**

I have had a very positive experience with ALEKS. I hear a lot of "Oh, I learned this on ALEKS" when we cover new topics in class. Although students ask about other programs, I tell them we're sticking with ALEKS because it's tied to state standards and actually requires students to work on the problems then input an answer. ALEKS also helps me cover a lot of topics, which students should have learned, in a short period of time. Initial assessments give me a good feel for the strengths and weaknesses of each class and student.

## **Scenario**

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

Geometry is really a struggle with my incoming seventh graders.

### **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 have a math lab class where we play strategy and math games half the days and ALEKS the other half. I require a certain number of topics be completed each week for a grade.

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

No, I let students work individually. I may require some topics as test preparation.

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

An entire class period is devoted to ALEKS. Students can also use it when they are finished with their homework.

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

I focus more on Geometry because the assessment results were showing large deficiencies.

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

Each week, the top ALEKS performers receive a bonus. We also have a summer program where we encourage students to stay sharp over the summer by using ALEKS occasionally.

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

We talk about it in terms of Response to Intervention (RtI) for both low and high level students. Test results are shown to parents during parent–teacher conferences.

## **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?**

Whatever they can't get done out of ten topics per week is homework. It's usually little to no homework.

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

It's 50 percent of their math lab (elective) grade.

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

Yes, ten topics per week usually. I print a report every Monday morning, and the number of topics out of ten is their percent.

**Learning Outcomes**

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

I hear a lot of "Oh, I learned this on ALEKS" when we cover new topics in class. Although students ask about other programs, I tell them we're sticking with ALEKS because it's tied to state standards and actually requires students to work on the problems then input an answer.