

# Implementation Strategies

**Pennbrook Middle School, North Penn School District**  
North Wales, PA

**Grade(s):** 7 – 9

**Scenario:** Laptop Carts

**Purpose:** RtI, Special Education, ESL Students, Supplement

**ALEKS Portion of Curriculum:** 25%

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** 1 hour per week, 10 hours per term

**ALEKS Course:** Middle School Math Course 2, High School Preparation for Algebra 1

**David Allen, Teacher**

ALEKS really helps students learn, increment by increment. My students feel more confident about their skills and nearly all of them realize how much it is helping. I have recommended ALEKS to homeschool parents as well. The people from ALEKS have also been excellent and very supportive. They listen to suggestions from students and staff.

## Scenario

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

Students had gaps in their learning and were very behind with their retention of skills, vocabulary, processes, and number facts. Some English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) students had no prior formal education.

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

1 day per week.

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

30 minutes.

## Implementation

**How do you implement ALEKS?**

We have two extra periods per six-day cycle, and ALEKS is what we use during those two extra periods.

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

No, students work on topics as ALEKS makes them available.

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

Students simply come in, take a laptop, and get to work. There are two teachers in the room to help with problems. Periodically, I take students one at a time to see how they are doing in the program and gain insight into their thinking.

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

No. We mostly depend on ALEKS providing the underlying skills required to do the regular work.

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

Students do not have to work on ALEKS at home at all.

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

None at this time.

## 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.

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

ALEKS is not part of our grading system.

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

Not yet, but we are working on a plan to challenge students for next year.

**Learning Outcomes**

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

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**Best Practices**

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

Make your expectations about ALEKS clear, but also have a little fun once in a while!