

# Implementation Strategies

**Florence–Carlton Middle School, Florence–Carlton District 15–6**  
Florence, MT

**Grade(s):** 4 – 8

**Scenario:** Computer Lab, Laptop Carts, Home Access

**Purpose:** RtI, Enrichment/Gifted and Talented, After–School

**ALEKS Portion of Curriculum:** 50%

**Time Spent in ALEKS:** 3 hours per week, 27 hours per term

**ALEKS Course:** Mathematics – LV 3 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 4 (with QuickTables), Mathematics – LV 5 (with QuickTables), Middle School Math Course 2, Middle School Math Course 3, Pre–Algebra, Algebra 1, High School Geometry, Algebra 2 with Trigonometry

**Lora Austin, Title I Teacher**

I am currently using ALEKS as a Title I supplement for Grades 4–8. I have used ALEKS for the past seven years in Indiana and saw an increase in test scores in the schools where I was teaching. ALEKS has been a vital resource with data and questioning that prove student mastery. I have only been using ALEKS for three weeks here in Montana but at my past school, students improved test scores significantly. They were proud and excited to see their growth.

## Scenario

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

There were low test scores, and it was difficult to meet the needs of the accelerated students as well as students who struggled in the classroom.

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

4 days per week.

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

45 minutes.

## Implementation

**How do you implement ALEKS?**

Florence–Carlton started a Middle School Title I program and we have students pulled from Academic Extension time four times a week to meet and work on ALEKS.

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

No, I typically correlate to the district adopted textbook, but there is no necessity to do this.

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

Students come into the class, get their computer, and log in. Students are graded on effort, progress, and time per week.

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

I have used ALEKS as a stand–alone program using the quizzes and homework as well as the progress on ALEKS. I have also used ALEKS two times a week in the regular classroom with book work on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and ALEKS on Tuesday and Thursday. I like both.

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

If possible, students try to work an hour per week at home. I require two hours per week for their grade.

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

I send brochures, have parent phone calls, and send the ALEKS reports home to be signed.

## 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?**

Last year, using ALEKS in the regular classroom, I used 25 percent Homework, 25 percent Test, 25 percent ALEKS time (two hours per week or 18 hours every nine weeks), and 25 percent Progress (I created a rubric and would tell students what percentage they would need for an A).

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

I use a rubric to measure progress.

## Learning Outcomes

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

I have only been using ALEKS for three weeks here in Montana but at my past school, students improved test scores significantly. They were proud and excited to see their growth.

## Best Practices

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

Excite and let students enjoy their time on ALEKS. I let them listen to their iPods because I found they focus well, if not better, and it makes ALEKS time a treat.