Accessing Standard-based Curriculum: An E-Learning Solution for Students with Disabilities

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The purpose of this project is to utilize technology to deliver instruction in math, science, and reading, on national curriculum standards-based school reform for the education of students with disabilities. The target audience is students with disabilities, along with preservice teacher educators and practicing teachers who work with secondary school students. Primary attention has been given to curriculum standards promulgated as national standards applicable to all students, including students with disabilities. The module design of the Online Academy (**http://www.onlineacademy.org**), which is supported by Office of Special Education Programs, at the University of Kansas, has been modified to accommodate online delivery of instruction to students and those who teach them. The result is national availability of online instructional modules on curriculum standards that directly impact the education of students with disabilities.

The focus has been twofold. First, this project provides hands-on exemplary activities, based on the National Standards, designed for students with disabilities. Second, it helps teachers to understand the standards and their application to students with disabilities with the intent of improving instruction for those students. The project is based on the premise that if students with disabilities in inclusion settings are to benefit maximally from standards-based reform initiatives, then all teachers must understand the applications of curriculum standards to the needs of these students.

The project offers three levels of productivity for the use of technology in education: (1) provides standards-based modules for student use, that also provide a model for teachers to modify to suit their own curriculum design; (2) provides methods for teachers to understand and implement the national standards of learning in math, science, and reading; and (3) assists teachers to utilize technology in their classrooms.

This demonstration will feature an overview of four specific modules that have been created to provide a national technology-based instructional system to provide practical assistance to teachers in implementing standards to benefit all students. Central to online instruction for teachers is the development of web-based instructional activities for students with disabilities. Participants will leave this demonstration with:

- An understanding of how these online modules can foster further integration of standards-based curriculum into the instruction of students with disabilities;
- An understanding of how these modules can be incorporated into preservice and inservice instruction; and
- An understanding of how to utilize these modules and related lessons into the day-to-day instruction of students with disabilities.