



The purpose of the Algebra Success Keys (ASK) is to provide teachers in grades K-12 with research-based strategies in instruction, assessments, accommodations, and technology to help students learn algebraic thinking. ASK should be used to help teachers teach algebraic thinking using three levels of learning (Concrete-Representational-Abstract) as well as to meet the needs of individual students.

Mastery in Mathematics is often challenging for students with and without disabilities to master. Recent legislation has focused on the need for increased rigor and relevance in math curricula, increasing the need for resources, professional development, and instructional strategies to improve results in math (specifically algebra, problem solving, and rigorous math content) for all students (NCES, 2004).

One of the main goals of the Algebra Success Keys (ASK) is to provide guidance and support for the development and implementation of algebraic thinking instruction in Grades K-12. This goal is a very timely, prudent and worthwhile when we consider the following facts about algebraic thinking:

- \* it is one of the few central themes that serve to organize, unify and give coherence to mathematics at all levels;
- \* it is one of the most important areas of emphasis in the Principle and standards for school mathematics (NCTM, 2000); and
- \* it is one of the mathematics topics that has been extensively researched revealing evidence of students' misconceptions in this area.