

Landmark Outreach

Four Decades of Helping Teachers & Students Succeed

By Leigh Blander
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Ever since the Landmark Outreach Program came to her classroom, Brookline fourth-grade teacher Karla Cunha-Cardosa has been using the strategies she learned to help her students succeed. And she sees the impact every day.

“The use of these strategies has encouraged and motivated students to connect with the content on a deeper level,” Cunha-Cardosa said. “I’m excited that kids are transferring the information and internalizing it, making it their own. I feel relief that I have the right tools to help my students.”

Landmark’s successful Outreach Program, marking its 40th anniversary next year, is renowned for its professional development-- workshops, seminars, online courses and in-school consultations, like the one in Brookline.

[Empowering Students Around the Country](#)

Landmark Outreach is currently working in approximately 30 school districts across the country. The Outreach Program is designed to empower students with language-based learning disabilities by training teachers in proven learning strategies.

“Our goal is to use research-driven tactics and materials to support students and give them powerful learning tools they can use throughout their education and beyond,” said Outreach Program director Dan Ahearn.

One key to the Landmark approach is its experienced, hands-on instructors.

“Because all Outreach instructors are also veteran Landmark teachers, they understand the needs of classroom teachers,” Ahearn said. “The strategies that they provide to educators in other schools are also ones that they use with their own students every day.”

[Success Story](#)

Landmark’s Outreach Program worked with teachers at the Brookline Lawrence School from 2009-2012. “The purpose was to increase our classroom teachers’ repertoire of strategies for working with kids in the classroom, to build their bag of tricks,” said Rick Rogers, who partnered with Landmark as the Lawrence School principal.

“It was very powerful. The work we did with Landmark is still having an impact years later.”

Landmark consultants lead workshops and work with teachers in their classrooms, training them in systems like CHOPS, a proofreading strategy that stands for Capitalization, Handwriting, Oral reading, Punctuation and Spelling.

Other strategies include Active Reading, Two-Column Notes, Graphic Organizers and Sentence Frames. Sentence Frames are tables that teach students proper sentence constructions by starting basic (article + noun + verb) and adding more complex elements one at a time (adjectives + where phrases + when phrases).

Cunha-Cardosa says Sentence Frames have been the most helpful tool for her students.

"The Sentence Frame relieved the struggle that the students may have encountered of having to know how to organize their thoughts in meaningful words, phrases or sentences," she said. "I find this motivates and encourages students to think and talk about what they learned/know."

"Let's Use the Landmark Model"

Landmark first started in Brookline in grades 4-6, but over the next three years worked with teachers in grades K-8 and ran multiple workshops.

Rogers says the Lawrence School's IEP rate was lower than state and district averages. "Landmark helped us improve what is happening in the classroom," he said. With Landmark's help, the school showed substantial improvement in Mathematics MCAS scores among its special needs students.

And Rogers emphasizes, the Landmark instruction benefits *all* students, not just those with learning challenges.

"All kids benefit from learning these skills," he said. "Even our most articulate writers do a better job with these skills."

Rogers highly recommends the Landmark Outreach program to other districts.

"The investment is still paying dividends four years later and there aren't many things in education that do that. Even when we incorporate new initiatives we say, 'Let's use the Landmark model for that.'"

Leigh Blander is a reporter and PR/Marketing specialist. She worked as an Executive Producer at the NBC station in Boston, as well as produced news and feature stories for a national TV news syndication company.