

What is Direct Instruction?...

The term Direct Instruction is not a new concept in the educational community. It's been around for 40 + years. Unfortunately, in the field of education, D.I. remains an enigma with many educators.

Here are the facts....

- Direct Instruction grew out of the successful work of the Berreiter-Engleman pre-school project at the University of Illinois in the early sixties....
- Direct Instruction was validated as the most successful model of instruction among the eleven studied in the Follow-Through Project of the 70's 80's and 90's.
- Direct Instruction has amassed more "student achievement" data than any other reform model, in American education.
- In a 1998 publication entitled, Comprehensive School Reform Guidance, the U.S. Department of Education identified the critical elements of successful school improvement as using effective, reliable, empirical research about effective practices.
- In 1999, the American Institutes for Research (AIR) published An Educator's Guide to School-Wide Reform. 24 Models for school improvement were analyzed. The report unequivocally established Direct Instruction as one of only two programs that had amassed "strong evidence, and consistent impact on school improvement."
- D.I. continues to exceed in the field of education as more and more student achievement data is accumulated in diverse populations of students.
- However, D.I. continues to be mis-understood as well as mis-characterized by traditional educators in the field.....

When implemented with fidelity, supported on every level, and held to the highest of standards, Direct Instruction remains one of our last best hopes for positive school wide reform in American education.

"We already know more than enough to educate all of our children well....the question is do we choose to do so?"

- Ron Edmonds

