



March 24, 2015

In this edition of NIFDI News!

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If you have questions or need additional information, you can reach us at 877.485.1973 or info@nifdi.org.

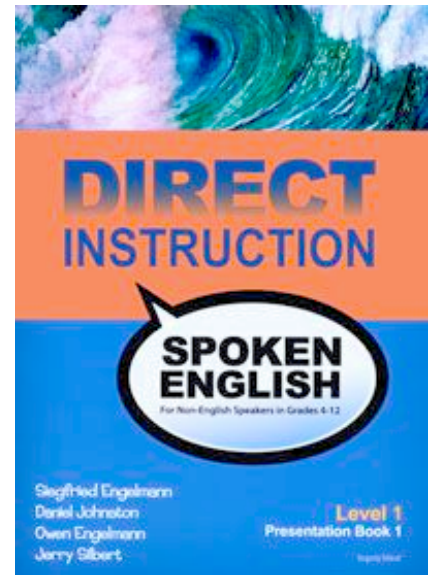
Oregon Research Institute Seeks Middle Schools for *DISE* Pilot

The Oregon Research Institute (ORI) is seeking middle schools for a research study funded by the US Department of Education on the practices of teaching English Learners (EL) how to speak English. The project is designed to learn more about what middle school teachers are doing to teach EL students in the 6th and 7th grades and to find out what's working for their students, within the context of an evaluation of *Direct Instruction Spoken English (DISE)*. Sites will partner with ORI for the two-year duration of the project. The National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI) will provide professional development and coaching for *DISE*.

Participating districts and teachers will be provided with incentives including stipends, curriculum, and professional development.

Potential districts will have the following characteristics:

- The district and school administration has an interest in using an evidence-based curriculum that teaches oral English language for ELs.
- There must be at least 2 schools in the district with grades 6-8.
- Schools must be willing to be chosen by lottery to teach the program for two years. Schools not chosen will simply teach ELD as usual but will agree to have instruction observed three times per year.
- Schools chosen by lottery must deliver ELD *DISE* instruction for 90 minutes daily (this can be broken up into smaller instructional chunks distributed throughout the day or after school).
- Each school must have at least 15 EL students in grades 6-7 with limited oral English proficiency.



Interested districts will need to provide a letter of support for the project no later than April 15, 2015.

For more information or to indicate your interest in participation, contact Erin Chaparro (541-514-2398, echaparr@uoregon.edu) or Barb Gunn (541-484-2123, barbarag@ori.org).

DI Schools Post Top 10 Scores in Baltimore

Like many schools this time of year, Wolfe Street Academy in Baltimore, Maryland is deep in the state assessment season. With regulations such as No Child Left Behind and the Common Core State Standards, student performance on standardized exams is an integral part of a school's success. And, for some schools, the implementation of Direct Instruction has helped propel student performance to the top.

Wolfe Street Academy, a community school in Baltimore serving over 200 students in Pre-K to 5th grades, is one such school. The Abell Foundation recently ranked the school as #2 among all public elementary schools in Baltimore for the performance of its students on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) test. Laura Doherty of the Baltimore Curriculum Project, a non-profit organization that operates a network of neighborhood charter schools in Baltimore, attributes Direct Instruction as one of the key factors in Wolfe Street's success.

Another DI school in the city--Hampstead Hill Academy--also scored well, posting the 9th highest scores in the city at the elementary level and 3rd highest of Baltimore's middle schools. Hampstead Hill has received Direct Instruction implementation support from the National Institute for Direct Instruction since 1996.

Nominate an Educator for the Excellence in Education Awards

An important feature of successful Direct Instruction implementations is to celebrate success--success of students, teachers and entire schools. For many years, there has been a tradition of recognizing excellence in education at the National DI Conference and this year is no exception. Individuals and schools that have made a significant difference in the educational performance of children will be recognized through the following awards:

- Siegfried Engelmann Excellence in Education Award
- Wes Becker Excellent School Award
- The Wayne Carline Student Improvement Award

Please take this opportunity to identify and nominate a colleague and/or school that has made a difference. Nomination applications are short (1-2 pages) and are available on our website.

Nominations are due in our office by June 3rd, so **download the application packet** today!



2014 Siegfried Engelmann Excellence in Education Award Winner, Kelly Shaheen



Group discounts available for upcoming summer trainings!

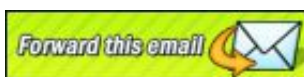
3rd Annual Southwest DI Conference

June 8-11, 2015
San Antonio, Texas

41st National Direct Instruction Conference & Institutes

July 27-31, 2015
Eugene, Oregon

Contact Bryan Wickman at 877.485.1973 or bwickman@nifdi.org for more information or to sign up!



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