

Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Office of Evaluation and Research
1500 Biscayne Boulevard
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**Evaluation of the
Direct Instruction Reading Program**

March 2004

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Direct Instruction (DI) Reading Program is an instructional system designed to improve the reading skills of students. The DI Program in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) was implemented in 26 elementary schools during the 2002-03 school year. The present evaluation focuses on the six DI schools that had been designated as AD@ schools by the state. The district's Office of Evaluation and Research, in cooperation with Curriculum Support and Innovative Programs, conducted the evaluation.

The evaluation revealed that each school has fully implemented the DI Program. The program is being offered to all students in all grades. The student-teacher ratio is low for reading instruction. Schools are receiving support for the DI Program from the Program Administrator and from Senior Coaches assigned to the schools. Although a controlled comparison revealed a couple of cases when DI students outperformed the non-DI students, this was not the norm. In most cases the performance of the two groups was comparable. Although the DI schools have a comparatively lower percentage of third graders reading at or above grade level, the increase of this percentage has outpaced the non-DI schools. This reflects very favorably on the future of the DI Program. Consequently, the following recommendation is made:

- ? The MDCPS should continue to implement the Direct Instruction Reading Program.

Additional information available from the
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