



DIRECT INSTRUCTION IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

A REVIEW OF RESULTS FROM TWO MIDDLE SCHOOLS IMPLEMENTING DI

The National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI) is a non-profit organization providing the world's foremost Direct Instruction (DI) implementation support. NIFDI has an established history working with schools in the United States and abroad, including middle schools in Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Nebraska, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, Guam and Australia. Below are the experiences of two high-poverty middle schools that implemented DI with support from NIFDI.

City Springs School – Baltimore, MD

City Springs School located in Baltimore, Maryland is a high-poverty school with a student population that is 99% African American (see Figure 1). The school, a K-8 campus, had a history of low performance. Only 33% of 7th grade students met or exceeded the benchmark standards on the Maryland State Assessment (MSA) exam in 2004-05. This means two out of every three children were failing!

Over the course of the next five years, City Springs School implemented Direct Instruction with NIFDI's support. During this time, the school's teaching staff were trained on critical aspects of the program, including student assessment, program delivery and adjusting instruction to react to individual students' needs. Through NIFDI's coaches training model, the school's leadership team developed the skills necessary to effectively lead a full-immersion DI implementation. As a result, the percentage of 7th graders meeting or exceeding the state benchmark more than doubled, from 33% to 79% (see Figure 2).

**Free-Reduced Lunch
City Springs School**

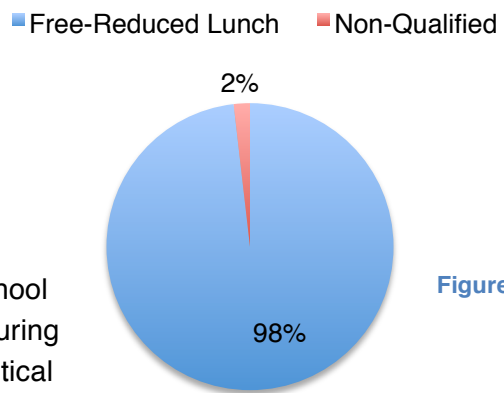


Figure 1

**Performance of 7th Grade Students at
City Springs School on Maryland State
Assessment (MSA) in Reading**

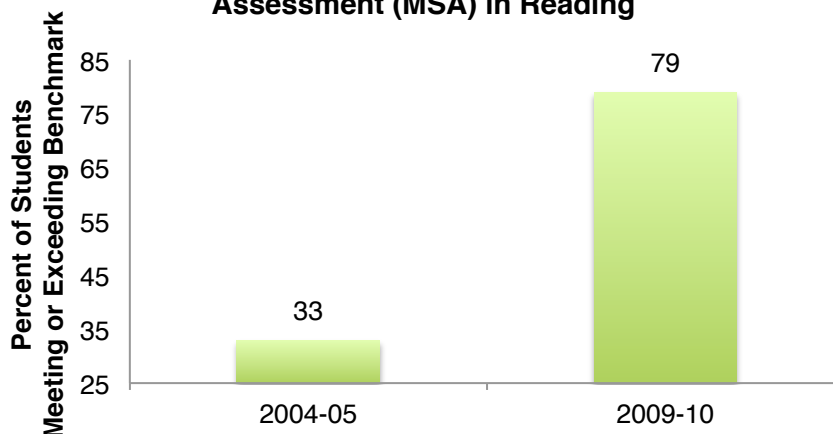


Figure 2

Bunche Middle School – Atlanta, GA

Students at Bunche Middle School in Atlanta, Georgia demonstrated significant improvements from the time they entered middle school as 6th graders to spring of their 8th grade year as a result of Direct Instruction. Bunche Middle School is comprised almost exclusively of African American students with 98% of the student body qualifying for the federal free-reduced lunch program (see Figure 3). With NIFDI support for implementing Direct Instruction, every cohort enjoyed significant gains from 2005 to 2009. The first group through the program went from 87% of students meeting or exceeding the Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) their first year in middle school to 96% of students passing the exam as 8th graders (see Figure 4). Similar results are evident for subsequent cohorts, including the 2006-07 cohort with 92% of students passing. Just two years later, 94 percent of students were passing – a difficult gain to achieve with already high-performing students!

Free-Reduced Lunch Bunche Middle School

■ Free-Reduced Lunch ■ Non-Qualified

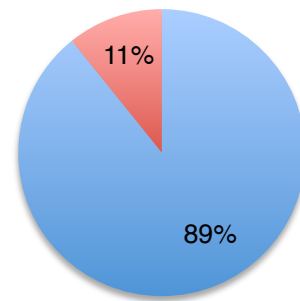


Figure 3

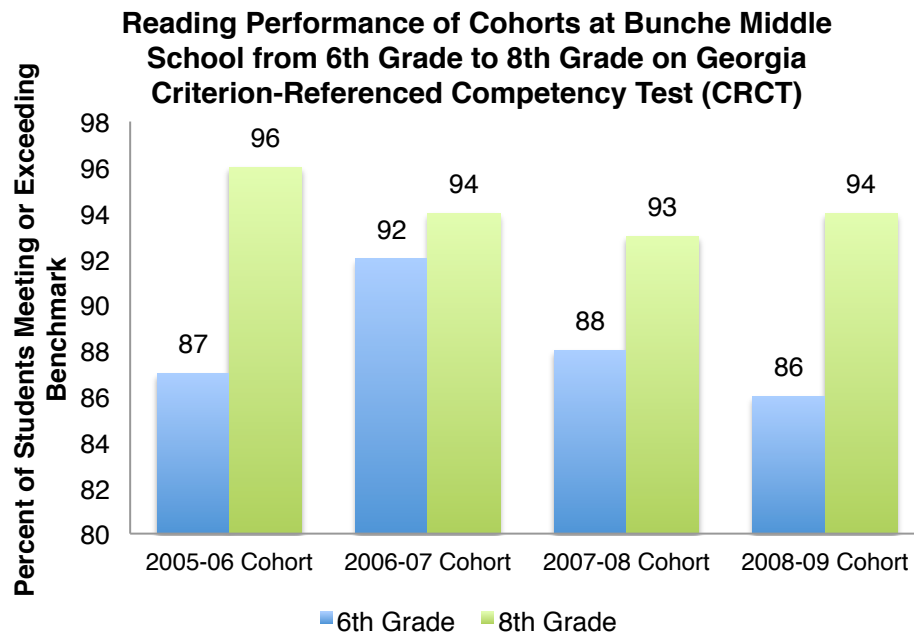


Figure 4

For more information, contact the National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI) toll-free at 877.485.1973 or at info@nifdi.org.