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If you have questions or need additional information, you can reach us at 877.485.1973 or [info@nifdi.org](mailto:info@nifdi.org).

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## Texas Pre-K DI Pilot Program Readies Students for Kindergarten

Nearly 100 pre-k students in Texas have reason to be proud of their newfound reading and language skills. IDEA Pharr Academy in Pharr, Texas introduced a pre-kindergarten pilot program featuring Direct Instruction programs with the goal of reducing the achievement gap and ensuring students begin kindergarten on grade level. 80% of Pharr Academy's students speak Spanish as their first language, and nearly all students, 97.3%, come from low socioeconomic backgrounds.



The year began with eight groups of students in *Español to English* and four more groups in *DISTAR Language*. Pharr's goal for the half-day pilot program was for all students to complete *Español to English* or *DISTAR* by the end of the year and be primed for starting *Reading Mastery Signature Edition (RMSE)* language and reading programs in the fall. With over 30 instructional days remaining until year's end, 66 of the 99 pre-k pilot program students have already started *RMSE K*--some having completed over 60 lessons! The other 33 students are finishing up *Español to English* and are a few lessons away from being ready to placement test for *RMSE*.

NIFDI Implementation Manager, Lyn House, points out the long-lasting impact this pilot program has, noting, "The addition of pre-k to the IDEA schools has the potential to have a monumental impact on the number of students finishing kindergarten on grade level, especially for those campuses with large numbers of students who come from homes that speak only Spanish."

Pharr Academy, IDEA Public Schools and NIFDI are thrilled with the accomplishments of these students and are looking ahead to the impact it can have on students when IDEA expands the program to other campuses throughout Texas for the 2015-16 school year. For more information on IDEA Public Schools, visit [ideapublicschools.org](http://ideapublicschools.org).

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## Newly Released: Introduction to Direct Instruction Video Series

Have you ever wished there was a convenient, online resource that you could use to help explain the fundamentals of DI to newbies? Well, now there is! NIFDI is proud to release our brand new [Introduction to Direct Instruction](#) video series!

This nine-part introduction is free and covers a range of topics relevant to individuals new to DI, including:

- *What is Direct Instruction?*
- *What are the Direct Instruction programs?*
- *What are the Direct Instruction program components?*
- *How are students assessed in the DI programs?*
- *What directions are there in the Teacher Presentation Books?*
- *What is the comprehensive Direct Instruction model?*
- *What is the research base for Direct Instruction?*
- *What training and support are available for implementing DI?*
- *How do I get started with Direct Instruction?*

Each video is only about five minutes long, providing a succinct introduction to each topic. Users can browse through the videos separately, but we recommend viewing them in the order they appear on the NIFDI webpage.

## Australia: Students Blossom as Noel Pearson's Way Hits Pilbara

By: Paige Taylor  
*The Australian*

Five hundred Martu children at five schools in the Pilbara desert have become the biggest cluster of Australian students to begin learning under the Direct Instruction teaching method championed by Cape York leader Noel Pearson, and there are early signs of big change.

In northeast Western Australia this week to see the highly scripted method in classrooms outside Cape York for the first time, Mr. Pearson declared there was a moral imperative in the program's continued rollout to remote schools, where so many students have failed to achieve.

"We have got a great moral purpose here, a moral purpose for the survival of these communities and these people," he said.

[Read the rest of the article here.](#)



*Noel Pearson with Martu children of the Western Desert at Donkey Hill, just outside Jigalong community.*

(Picture: Marie Nirme; Source: News Corp Australia)

## John McWhorter on How DI Can Help End Poverty



John McWhorter

John McWhorter, a professor at Columbia University, recently presented the keynote speech at the Cato Institute half-day conference on ending poverty. One of the pillars to his solution? Direct Instruction!

McWhorter said there were three things that needed to be done in order to end poverty for African Americans in the United States and touted Direct Instruction as the premier program for teaching all inner city kids how to read as one of those solutions. He also suggested encouraging young Americans to wait to start families until they had established careers and ending the war on drugs as two other meaningful methods.

Want to see McWhorter's remarks for yourself? [View the video for free online.](#) Note: John begins his comments on Direct Instruction at 29:30 into the talk and at about 55

## Don't Forget! DI Community Fair Applications Due June 1st

As a part of the *Excellence in Education Awards* evening, NIFDI and McGraw-Hill Education are hosting the first ever *Community Direct Instruction Fair* **Tuesday, July 28th from 5:30-8:00pm** at the National DI Conference. The fair will be an opportunity for participants to "show and tell" about their application of DI.

Successful applicants will be provided a board to display up to a 36x36" poster. There will also be a table in front of the display board where handouts or display material can be placed. Then, as people enjoy the social hour, presenters can share how DI has impacted their school or district.

Possible topics could include a University program featuring DI teacher prep, a school district showing results attained through DI, a charter school recruitment. Really there is no limit, as long as you can explain in your application how your proposal will be of interest and benefit to other DI users!

Applications for participation are available [online](#) or in the [conference brochure](#). All **applications are due in our office by June 1st**. Submit your completed applications to [Bryan Wickman](#) at PO Box 11248, Eugene, OR 97440 or by fax at 541.683.7543.



### Group discounts available for upcoming summer trainings!

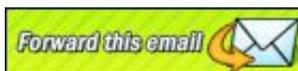
#### **3rd Annual Southwest DI Conference**

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](mailto:bwickman@nifdi.org) for more information or to sign up!



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