



About the Academy:		About the Students:	
Grades:	K-4	African American:	8%
Number of Students:	915	Caucasian:	7%
Test(s):	TAKS/TELPAS	Hispanic:	83%
Reduced Price Lunch:	84%	Asian:	>2%
		American Indian:	>1%
		ELL:	56%



Direct Instruction Drives Success for Bilingual Students At Houston Elementary School

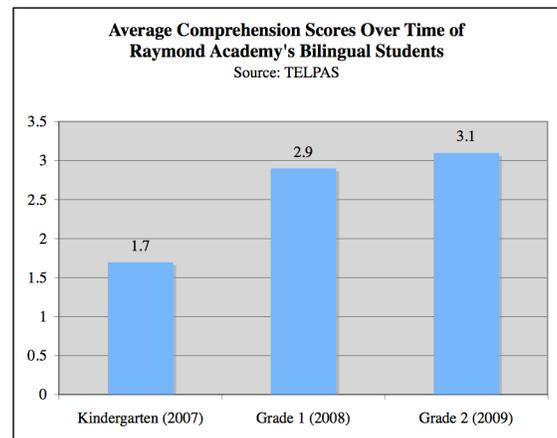
Raymond Academy is a magnet school focused on engineering for Grade K–4 students in Texas’ Aldine Independent School District. With more than half of its students classified as English language learners, Raymond Academy implemented a bilingual reading strategy in 2006 using several Direct Instruction programs from SRA/McGraw-Hill under the leadership of Principal Linda Miller. As a result, the first group of students that had started the bilingual class as Kindergarteners three years ago have earned outstanding scores on the Grade 2 level of the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS), designed to assess the progress of limited English proficient (LEP) students.

Sonia Galvan, a bilingual teacher, believes Direct Instruction provides English language learners the linguistic support to transition from Spanish to English. “It covers all the instructional strategies to increase student achievement. The teacher is able to teach, model, and practice the specific procedures to acquire English, and the LEP students acquire self-confidence in their English acquisition process.”

The structure of the bilingual program is designed strategically to serve individual student needs. For example, students new to English are placed in a self-contained classroom where they gradually transition from Spanish to English using *Language for Learning, Language for Thinking, and Reading Mastery* Direct Instruction programs.

Meanwhile other LEP students move between Spanish- and English-speaking classrooms, where they are accelerated in *Language for Thinking* and *Reading Mastery*, another SRA Direct Instruction program.

The research-based, explicit programs were first implemented at Raymond in Kindergarten in the 2002-2003 school years. These programs were added to Grades 1–3 in the 2003-2004 school year.



This chart reflects the improvement of reading comprehensions scores over time as Raymond Academy's first bilingual class moved from Kindergarten to Grade 2 with Direct Instruction.



Of the Grade 2 bilingual classes, 83% of students scored Advanced or Advanced High on the TELPAS Reading in 2009. The Grade 2 self-contained class had 23% of students new to English on the campus score Advanced or Advanced High in English reading.

In fact, the TELPAS comprehension score for the bilingual students has increased every year since implementation. In 2007, as Kindergarteners, the average comprehension score was 1.7. In 2008, at the end of Grade 1, the average comprehension score was 2.9. And in 2009, the average comprehension score of the Grade 2 students was 3.1.

SRA/McGraw-Hill's Direct Instruction is an integral part of Raymond Academy's overall success with regular and bilingual education students because they are very confident in their reading abilities, which motivates them to conquer other endeavors or subjects, according to Deidre Leaks, the *Reading Mastery* coach and bilingual coordinator at the school.

"This research-based program allows for flexible grouping of students and one-to-one attention and teacher support to meet the needs of every student. Our scores reflect the success that is made daily in the classroom with our diverse group of students. Our students have truly taken ownership in their learning through this program."

In addition to improving state assessment scores, Raymond Academy has received Exemplary performance ratings from the Texas Education Agency for the last four years, and was recognized by the United States Department of Education for "Magnet Schools of Best Practices."

About Raymond Academy

Serving approximately 915 students in Grades K–4, Raymond Academy's student population is 83% Hispanic, 8% African American, 7% Caucasian, less than 2% Asian American, and less than 1% American Indian. Almost 84% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, and 56% are English language learners. For more information about this district, please visit www.aldine.k12.tx.us/sections/Schools/specific_campus.cfm?campusNumber=113.

For More Information

If you would like to learn more about success with Direct Instruction programs in your school or district, please contact us today at **1-888-SRA-4543**.
