

About the District:		About the Students:	
Grades:	K-12	African American:	1%
Number of Students:	13,428	Caucasian:	92%
Test(s):	CRT	Hispanic:	6%
Reduced Price Lunch:	30%	Asian:	1%
		Other:	-
		ELL	6%

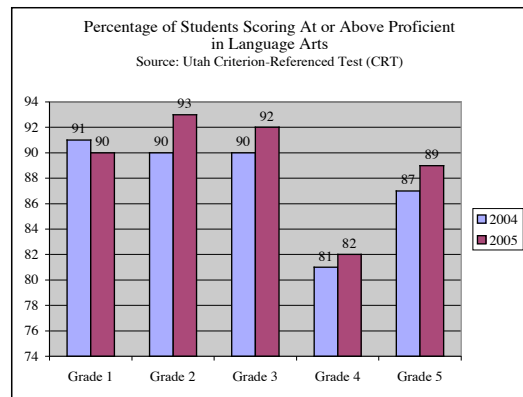


Utah School District Maintains High Language Arts Scores with Direct Instruction

After implementing *Corrective Reading*, one of SRA/McGraw-Hill’s Direct Instruction programs, 70% of Grade 8 students taking the reading’s portion of the Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT) met or exceeded standards in 2002. This number is a dramatic increase compared to when those same students took the test in 2000 as Grade 6 students and only 57% met or exceeded standards.

When Direct Instruction was implemented with special education elementary school students in the Cache County School District during the 1970s, no one could predict the teaching strategy would continue for more than 30 years and be expanded to regular education students.

Now Direct Instruction is used with students in the district on an intervention basis. *Corrective Reading* is taught in Grades 3–5, *Reading Mastery* in Grades K–5, *Language For Learning* in Kindergarten with students learning English as a second language (ESL), and *Spelling Through Morphographs* in a few Grade 4 classrooms. Special education students continue to receive Direct Instruction as well.



Title I Director Becky Wadsworth said the beauty of Direct Instruction is teachers don’t have to spend hours collecting teaching information because everything is right there for them in the instructional guide.

“Direct Instruction’s foundation of explicit and systematic instruction allows quality teaching to be delivered by trained professionals as well as paraprofessionals,” she said. “The longevity of the programs has provided a solid base of scientifically backed research to meet today’s educational requirements.”

Her colleague Patty Willis, a district literacy coordinator, echoed that sentiment.

“The instructional design and the option for a teacher or a paraprofessional to replicate quality instruction is invaluable,” Willis said. “When educators teach a quality program, such as Direct Instruction, and utilize the embedded assessments, they know exactly whether their students are moving forward or need further intervention.”

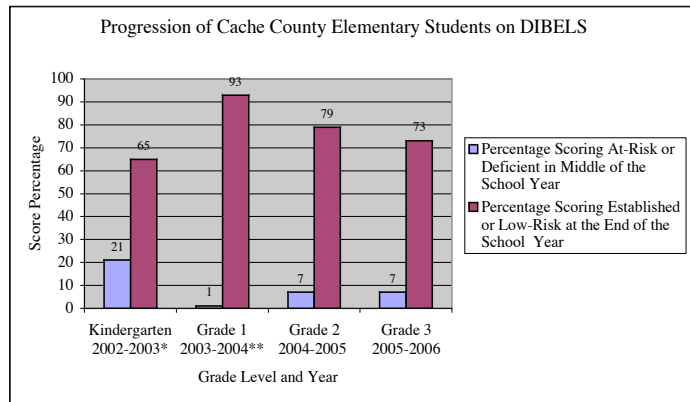


Sara Krebs, another district literacy coordinator, said teachers appreciate the fact that Direct Instruction programs are developed and validated with highly diverse learners.

“There are 13 elementary schools in our district, eight of which are Title I,” Krebs said. “The average percentage of students scoring proficient in language arts on the Criterion-Referenced Test among all schools has stayed steady in the high 80s and low 90s for the past few years, no matter the socioeconomic factors.”

Krebs said the proof also lies in DIBELS scores.

“When you look specifically at one class and how the students scored year after year, you’ll see that intervention for struggling readers has been strengthened through the use of Direct Instruction programs.”



*Phoneme Segmentation Fluency
** Oral Reading Fluency

Wadsworth added that selecting a valid program is not sufficient; educators must ensure a valid implementation. The consensus of the three Cache District literacy personnel on valid implementation is best summarized in the May 2006 *Utah Special Educator* article they coauthored: “The mastery of the low achievers must be carefully monitored. This is accomplished through use of the well-designed, embedded assessments, along with comparisons to other district benchmark measures that allow educators to more conclusively ascertain each student’s mastery of crucial literacy skills. The goal for effective implementation is determined one class, one teacher, and one student at a time.”

About the Cache County School District

Serving approximately 13,428 students in Grades K–12, this district’s student population is 92% Caucasian, 6% Hispanic, 1% African American, and 1% Asian. Thirty percent of the students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, and 6% are English Language Learners (ELL). For more information about the Cache County School District, visit www.cache.k12.ut.us.

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**.